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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



'Worth It'

President Bush says he has no doubts about launching the unpopular war in Iraq despite the "high cost in lives and treasure."

NATION...Page 14

Embassy Attack

Three mortar rounds targeting the U.S. Embassy in Yemen crashed into a high school for girls next door.

WORLD...Page 16



A.C. Clarke, 90

Arthur C. Clarke, a visionary science fiction writer who wrote "2001: A Space Odyssey" and won worldwide acclaim with more than 100 books, died Wednesday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Senate refers budget bill to a joint committee. **PAGE 2**

2 new charges filed vs ex-KPMG partner. **PAGE 5**

NMI veterans with stress disorder cry out for help

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER



Over 80 combat veterans in the CNMI are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder but are finding it difficult to find the help they need to deal with this ailment.

According to Troops-To-Teachers program director Gerri Willis, the CNMI is in dire need of a veteran's clinic with specialized counselors for veterans who suffer from PTSD but because the CNMI

See **NMI** on Page 4

Miura gets one-month breather

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura's request to give him a month to



Miura

submit a petition challenging the extradition case filed against him.

Manglona said one month is a reasonable period under the rules of civil procedure to bring a petition for habeas corpus in court. Chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. did not object to Miura's request.

Manglona gave Miura's legal team no later than April 18 to file the petition.

See **MIURA** on Page 4

'S.2739 sensitive to NMI concerns'

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The spokesman of the powerful Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee said that the provision on CNMI immigration incorporated in S.2739 is not insensitive to the concerns of the Commonwealth and its people.

In an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*, communications director Bill Wicker said the new omnibus bill authored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) does have the best interest of the CNMI in mind when it comes to the federalization issue.

"We remain concerned that opponents of federalization continue to deliberately

See **S.2739** on Page 4

Maximo: Glad's comment a slur on Filipinos

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Philippine Consulate General Wilfredo DL. Maximo has taken issue with a statement made by Island Medical Center owner Tony Glad relating to his accounts manager, a Filipino, during an interview that aired on KSPN 2 last week.



Maximo

In a letter to Glad dated March 19, Maximo said that Glad's remark was a

slur on all Filipinos on the islands.

"I am writing to express concern over your remarks during an interview with KSPN on 14 March 2008, during which you were heard to say, in connection with the recent departure of the Filipino accountant of Island Medical Center, that 'It is typical of the Filipinos...when they have

problems...they [dis]appear and leave for

See **MAXIMO** on Page 4

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Local

Senate refers budget bill to a joint committee

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Senate yesterday referred H.B. 16-51, or the \$167.48 million budget bill approved by the lower chamber last month, to a joint conference committee with the House of Representatives.

In unanimous vote, Senate members led by Senate President Pete P. Reyes voted to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 16-08 prepared by Committee on Fiscal Affairs

chair Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, which recommended that, "...in the interest of time, the Senate postpone taking final action on House Bill 16-51, HD5, and refer the matter to a joint conference committee with the House of Representatives."

In her committee report to the body yesterday, Pangelinan defended the length of time it took for the Standing Committee Report to be submitted.

"Do not mistake the silence

from this Committee since March 4, when H.B. 16-51 was submitted to the Senate, as a lack of action. The governor's proposed budget for FY2008 and H.B. 16-51 have been deconstructed to the business unit level and carefully analyzed," the report stated.

The report also stated that the outcome of the fiscal year is uncertain, whether the Legislature passes the 2008 budget or not. "Revenues will likely continue to drop. The price of crude oil is

headed for \$120 a barrel, and we are still dependent upon power that is generated from it.

"We are no longer facing a fiscal crisis; we are in it. Bold and decisive action is our only option. Anything less will only complicate the situation, making it worse."

The Standing Committee Report also said that objective and focused attention on the recommendations made by the Committee on Fiscal Affairs is absolutely imperative.

"As difficult as the loss of revenues may be, it certainly has the potential benefit of forcing frugality, conservation of resources, and lowering staffing and salaries to a level more in keeping with equivalent jobs in the private sector."

The House passed the 2008 appropriations bill on March 3 on first and final reading. It was introduced Feb. 29 by House Way and Means Committee chair Ray Yumul and earmarks \$164.25 million for all govern-

ment agencies under the General Fund and \$3.23 million for the Department of Public Lands, which is funded by income from leases on public lands.

In addition, the bill distributes \$5.117 million of Compact Impact funds, or reimbursement money from the federal government to the CNMI for hosting Micronesian citizens.

The budget will apply to the current fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2007 to Sept. 30, 2008.

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'Court not obliged to explain consequences of guilty pleas'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that the trial court is not obligated to inform defendants of the collateral consequences of their guilty pleas.

"As a matter of public policy, courts universally agree that it would be incredibly burdensome, if not impossible, to require trial courts to research and disclose every conceivable consequence of a guilty plea," according to the high court's opinion issued by associate justice John A. Manglona. The opinion was concurred by chief justice Miguel S. Demapan and associate justice Alejandro C. Castro.

Clearly, the justices pointed out, requiring the trial court to advise a defendant of every potential consequence of a guilty plea would cripple judicial efficiency and fundamentally alter the functions of the court system.

"If anyone has an obligation to inform a defendant of the collateral consequences associated with a guilty plea, it is a defendant's attorney," said the justices, citing a previous court ruling.

The justices affirmed the trial court's decision to deny taxicab driver Pranee Jindawong's motion to set aside her reckless driving conviction.

The CNMI Supreme Court defined in a previous decision direct consequences as having "a definite, immediate and largely automatic effect on the range of the defendant's punishment."

Quoting court rulings, the high court said collateral consequences are not automatic, but are "contingent on action taken by an individual or individuals other than the sentencing court..."

The justices ruled that the trial court did not violate Jindawong's due process rights in failing to inform her that a second reckless driving conviction would result in the loss of her taxicab license.

The justices pointed out that the denial of Jindawong's taxicab license by the Department of Commerce was a collateral consequence of her guilty plea for reckless driving.

Jindawong received a traffic citation in March 2006 for reckless driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, and failing to submit to a breath test.

Shortly before trial, in January 2007, Jindawong signed a plea agreement with the government, agreeing to plead guilty to reckless driving, and failing to submit to a breathalyzer test.



Manglona



Demapan



Castro

In return for her guilty plea, the Commonwealth dropped the charge of DUI.

Before accepting the plea agreement, the trial judge asked the defendant if she understood the nature of her crimes, and whether she understood the direct penalties associated with her guilty pleas. Jindawong said yes.

The trial court accepted the plea agreement, convicted her of reckless driving and failing to submit to a breathalyzer test, and sentenced her to 30 days in prison and six months of probation.

The trial court suspended her 30-day jail sentence for six months. The court ordered her to pay probation and court assessment fee, abstain from possessing or consuming alcohol, and attend alcohol counseling classes.

In February 2007, Commerce denied Jindawong's certification of fitness and taxicab operator's identification card (taxicab license).

In its denial, Commerce relied on the statute which states

that "no person shall be licensed as a taxicab driver who has ever been twice convicted of reckless driving..."

Because Jindawong was previously convicted of reckless driving in an unrelated case, her guilty plea in the present case constituted her second reckless driving conviction. This resulted in the denial of her taxicab license.

Commerce informed defendant that, if requested, she was entitled to a hearing. She, however, did not request one.

Jindawong filed a motion to set aside her reckless driving guilty plea because the trial court did not inform her that a second reckless driving conviction

would result in the denial of her taxicab license.

The trial court denied her motion, determining that the denial of defendant's taxicab license was a collateral consequence of her conviction. The judge ruled that courts are not obligated to advise defendants of the collateral consequences associated with their guilty pleas.

Jindawong, through the Public Defender's Office, argued that her guilty plea for reckless driving was not voluntary and intelligent in accordance with her due process rights because the trial court did not inform her of the direct consequences of her guilty plea.

In upholding the trial court's decision, the justices cited that just as they determined in their previous opinion stating that the Attorney General's Office and not

the sentencing court, instituted deportation proceedings against an alien defendant, they likewise find that Commerce, and not the sentencing court, denied defendant's taxicab license.

The justices said Commerce falls under the purview of the executive branch, operating independently from the trial court.

Commerce, in denying Jindawong's taxicab license, neither acted under the authority of the trial court, nor carried out a court order, the justices said.

The justices said Commerce acted under the authority of a statute. "It is clear that the denial of defendant's taxicab license was not a punishment imposed by the trial court, but a collateral consequence of her reckless driving conviction," they stressed.

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MAXIMO

From Page 1

some reasons,” he said.

Maximo said that while Glad stated he was unaware of the reason for Romeo Dolot's sudden departure after the closure of the IMC, the context within which the statement was issued tended

to imply the IMC owner's suspicion of wrongdoing on Dolot's part.

“It is not our intention to prejudice the ongoing investigation, and if in fact your employee is eventually found to have committed wrongdoing, you are well within your rights to institute the proper criminal proceedings against him. However, we take issue with your issuing a sweeping

statement on the character of all Filipinos on the basis of this one employee, regardless of whether or not he is eventually found to have committed a crime,” said Maximo.

The Philippine Consulate General characterized Glad's interview with KSPN 2 as disparaging against Filipinos.

“As you are perhaps aware, there

is a sizeable Filipino community in the CNMI and majority of accountants in the CNMI are Filipinos. Your remarks, though stated in ambiguous terms, virtually cast a slur on all Filipinos. Considering the difficult situation under which all nonresident workers of all nationalities now find themselves in within the CNMI, remarks such as yours are irresponsible, to say the least.

“I urge you to exercise more caution in your remarks in the future, in the interest of keeping the peace and assuring continuing racial harmony within the CNMI,” Maximo concluded.

IMC, operated by the Micronesian

Health Corp., was closed down by the Department of Public Health last March 5 due to alleged noncompliance with rules and regulations.

According to the suspension order issued by DPH, the Susupe clinic has a history of “unlawful pattern or practice by issuing health certificates either without blood screening tests or on the basis of false, forged and/or altered lab test documentary results.”

In a later interview with Glad, he expressed suspicion that his accounts manager, Dolot, may have something to do with it due to the employee's sudden departure from the island. He said he is now investigating the matter.

‘STOP THE IRAQ WAR’

An anti-war protests sign is seen as Bryan Jones, Bud Carroll, Ruth Tighe, Lynn Corella and Cyndy Tice stand at the foot of American Memorial Park's Court of Honor and Flag Circle during the Silent Vigil to mark the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq yesterday afternoon. The war has already claimed the lives of nearly 4,000 U.S. troops.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

S.2739

From Page 1

misinterpret and misinform the community about this legislation, to make it appear insensitive to CNMI concerns. For example, opponents consistently cite the [guest worker program] phase-out, but always neglect to also quote from Section 701 of the bill.”

Wicker noted that the Statement of Congressional Intent clearly states that the bill is to be implemented:

■ in a way that provides “an orderly phase-out of the nonresident contract worker program”;

■ “to minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing-out the Commonwealth's nonresident contract worker program”; and

■ that it shall provide “a mechanism for the continued use of alien workers to the extent those alien workers continue to be necessary to supplement the Commonwealth's resident workforce, and to protect those workers from potential abuse and exploitation.”

More importantly, Wicker said, the new section 6(d)(5) of the law provides that the governor of the CNMI will be consulted in determining “whether an extension of up to five years of the [guest worker program] is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers will be available for legitimate businesses in the Commonwealth.”

In contrast to what opponents of federalization say, “there is no limit on the number of such five-year extensions,” he said.

Wicker added that the U.S. Senate has every right to put CNMI im-

migration under the control of the federal government, since that right is clearly mandated in its Covenant with the islands.

“It is important for the community to recall that the Covenant specifically grants the U.S. the right to extend its immigration laws. After the attacks of 9-11, and with the military buildup in Guam, the U.S. now has compelling reasons to exercise that right. It can be argued that those who oppose this reform legislation are not keeping faith with the Covenant,” he said.

Opponents of federalization of CNMI immigration point out that the bill does not clearly state what will be done, but what “may” only be done. They also say that the bill does not provide for a safety net for the CNMI in case the proposed law results in negative economic impact for the Commonwealth.

NMI

From Page 1

is so distant and isolated, veterans find it difficult to get the much needed help they need and deserve.

“There are a lot of great counselors on island but none of them are qualified to handle veterans with PTSD. We try to get someone out here who can work with these soldiers in one capacity or another, but we're not getting those services,” Willis said.

Troops-To-Teachers pioneer Winfred Camacho echoed this, saying: “For some odd reason, the leadership in the U.S. sends people out here to assist but nothing is ever really done.”

“They send people out here, we fill out surveys, and they put us through many physical check-ups and a lot of times we don't even get the results of what happened from those physicals and assessments. And a lot of times we really have no clue where to go or who to turn to,” Camacho said.

Camacho explained that there is a big push in the U.S. mainland for improvements in health care services for

veterans.

“But because we're so remote, we don't have a real veteran's facility here for our guys. Our guys are being forced to go to Guam or Hawaii and a lot of times, because they are unaware of where to go and how to go about getting the help they need, they have to pay out of their own pockets when they shouldn't have to,” Camacho said.

“These men and women deserve it, they have that right, by law. But they are not given that courtesy,” Willis said.

Willis said that she has been approached by veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam between 1962 and 1971.

“They have told me that they have not ever gotten any help or even evaluated as they deal with this issue. They are also seeing that it is also affecting their own children,” Willis said.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which grave physical harm occurred or was threatened. Traumatic events that may trigger PTSD include violent personal assaults, natural or human-

caused disasters, accidents, or military combat.

Symptoms can develop long after the event and usually include recurrent terrifying recollections of the trauma. Sufferers often have debilitating anxiety, irritability, insomnia and other signs of stress.

Heartbreaking stories

Soldiers and their families in the CNMI are forced to go through heartbreaking situations due to the absence of a veteran's clinic here.

One veteran claims that he gets flashbacks when he sees particular objects that everyone else would not think much of. He said he also wakes up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat and a racing heart after a bad dream.

Another trooper said she went through scary situations while in active duty and that she still gets flashbacks but she doesn't let it get the best of her.

“I have been shot at, drugged, kidnapped, and even been a victim of attempted rape. I've lived it all,” she said. “We see certain things that will trigger something and it'll just remind you. It's painful, but you go on.”

MIURA

From Page 1

tion for habeas corpus and allowed the Attorney General's Office to file its opposition on or before May 2.

The judge said the defendant's counsel will have until May 8 to reply to the government's opposition.

Manglona set the hearing on the petition and the extradition complaint for May 28 at 1:30pm.

Miura's lawyer, Bruce Berline, underscored the need for them to have at least one month to prepare the petition and challenge the extradition.

Berline said they are waiting for any development in Miura's double jeopardy argument in California. That aspect is being handled by California-based lawyer Mark Geragos.

Manglona also granted Berline's request to recommend to the Department of Corrections giving Miura additional telephone privileges while in jail.

She mentioned that the case against Miura is unique and that the defendant should be afforded the right to have sufficient legal representation.

Berline explained that aside from him and co-counsels Mark Hanson and William Fitzgerald, their client also has some lawyers in Japan and California that he needs to talk to about the case.

Warfield did not object to granting Miura additional telephone privileges.

Manglona directed Miura's counsel to prepare the order related to the telephone privileges.

A third trooper also pointed out that needed services are not only for veterans, “but for our families as well.”

“Because when we get deployed, there are a lot of issues that are being dealt with and when we come back, we face those issues from the last deployment, at the same time facing having to go again in August or September,” he said.

He said, “Those kinds of things need to be dealt with because families are also feeling the strain from the last deployment.”

Camacho said that he has received calls from wives asking why their husbands are not talking to them that much anymore and are waking up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat “and their wives don't understand why.”

Specialists needed

Camacho reiterated the need for the CNMI to have a veteran's clinic that would include specialists on post-traumatic stress disorder.

“We need a specialist who can really understand where we are coming from and for their families as well,” Camacho said.

Willis emphasized that the help these veterans need should not come out of

At the start of the hearing yesterday, Manglona informed Miura about CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial's issuance of an arrest warrant for his extradition to California.

Miura was in court with an interpreter. He was observed nodding his head.

The judge explained to the 60-year-old businessman of his constitutional rights, including challenging the extradition complaint.

Manglona also discussed the documents included in the extradition package.

Hanson told the court that they are objecting to the extradition and that they are going to file a petition for habeas corpus.

In an interview with the media after the hearing, Berline said they feel good so far because they got the time they needed to do a thorough job on the habeas corpus.

“So far everything is proceeding apace in the way that we would like to see it proceed,” Berline said.

Warfield said he asked for two weeks to respond to what Miura's legal team will file.

“I think that it's appropriate, given that they got a month to file their initial petition,” he said.

The chief prosecutor said he has no strategy because the government will just respond to whatever Miura's counsels file.

“Right now the ball is in their court, so to speak. Once they file their application, then we will read it and respond to it,” Warfield said.

their own pockets. “They've been deployed, they've come back, so they should be given that.”

Military and Veterans Affairs executive officer Ruth Coleman agrees with the need for the CNMI to have a health care clinic for veterans.

“We have an infantry unit and they are most vulnerable in combat. Any veteran who goes through any kind of war can easily suffer PTSD one way or another,” Coleman said.

She added that veterans who had to pay for medical help or assistance didn't have to.

“The process is here but they just need to call me so that I can tell them how to go about getting care provided on Saipan on an authorization basis through the Veteran's Office,” Coleman said.

Camacho said that Coleman “has been a huge help and has been working tirelessly [but] she is only one person.”

There are over 200 veterans in the CNMI that are living with service-related disabilities.

Coleman insists that veterans who need help can contact her at the veteran's office and that she'll gladly be of service.

2 new charges filed vs ex-KPMG partner

By CHAD BRAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Former KPMG LLP tax partner Robert Pfaff has been charged in a new two-count criminal indictment over alleged fraudulent tax-shelter transactions in the U.S. and the Northern Mariana Islands, according to court papers made public. Pfaff, who was at KPMG from 1993 to August 1997, was charged with conspiracy and obstructing or impeding the due administration of the Internal Revenue laws, according to the new indictment made public Tuesday.

The government also sepa-

ately filed a civil forfeiture action against Pfaff, seeking nearly \$1.84 million related to fee income he allegedly received as a result of the implementation of the tax shelters.

A lawyer for Pfaff didn't immediately return a phone call seeking comment late Tuesday.

The new indictment appears to be an attempt by the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan to bring Pfaff to trial before three other remaining defendants in a separate, closely watched tax-shelter fraud case here.

Pfaff, former KPMG tax partner David Greenberg, ex-KPMG senior tax manager John Larson and ex-Sidley Austin

lawyer Raymond J. Ruble have been expected to go to trial in September on charges of conspiracy and multiple counts of tax evasion.

Prosecutors had alleged that Pfaff, Greenberg, Larson and Ruble participated in a scheme that allowed wealthy individuals to avoid paying billions of dollars in taxes to the Internal Revenue Service through the use of tax shelters. The men have denied wrongdoing.

Last July, U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan in Manhattan dismissed 13 former KPMG executives from the prior case after he found that prosecutors violated their rights to counsel

by putting undue pressure on the accounting firm not to advance them defense costs.

Prosecutors have vehemently denied they did anything wrong and have appealed the judge's ruling.

The new indictment, which has been assigned to another judge, alleges that Pfaff, along with others, from 1993 to 2003 attempted to defraud tax authorities in the U.S. and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through the use of certain tax shelters.

The tax shelters included those implemented by a Saipan company as a corporate taxpayer in the Northern Mariana Islands.

In the civil complaint, prosecutors alleged Pfaff, certain officers of the Saipan company and others split fee income from the tax-shelter transactions.

According to the criminal indictment, Pfaff received more than \$3.75 million in fee income from the tax-shelter transactions, using it to purchase two homes in Colorado, get a Porsche for himself, pay initiation fees at a Denver country club and buy Hawaiian artwork.

As part of the alleged scheme, Pfaff and others caused millions of dollars of tax-shelter fee income to be sent from bank accounts in the U.S. and the Northern Mariana Islands to bank accounts in the Philippines, according to the indictment. Pfaff and others later requested that an unnamed co-conspirator in the Philippines distribute the money to Pfaff and others.

Pfaff, an unnamed co-conspirator on Saipan, and the Philippines co-conspirator also allegedly created a series of phony documents to make it appear as if millions of dollars in fee income Pfaff received from 1996 to 2000 was the result of a

series of loans, according to the indictment.

The documents were created after the IRS commenced an investigation into the tax-shelter transactions, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors also alleged that Pfaff purchased shares of the Saipan company through a nominee purchaser in 2000 and in 2002, while simultaneously making payments that made it appear he was repaying the bogus loans.

Pfaff allegedly made false statements regarding an IRS audit in 2003 and filed false and fraudulent tax returns for tax years 2001 and 2002.

The new indictment names California businessman Chandler S. Moisen and Domenick DeGiorgio, a former executive at German bank Bayerische Hypo & Vereinsbank AG, as co-conspirators. Moisen and DeGiorgio have separately pleaded guilty to criminal charges.

Deportation is sought vs woman who defrauded workers of \$.8M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Division of Immigration has sought the deportation of a businesswoman who was convicted in 2002 of collecting over \$.8 million from several garment factory workers through an illegal banking scheme.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman ordered Mei Ying Yen to appear in court on March 27 at 1:30pm to explain why she should not be deported from the CNMI.

Immigration investigator Nicolas Reyes stated in court documents that the 40-year-old Yen is a deportable alien because she has been convicted of four

felonies and therefore failed to comply with the requirement or condition of her entry.

Yen entered the CNMI on a long-term business entry permit issued on Jan. 28, 2000; it expired on Dec. 28, 2001.

Reyes said he received information from a Board of Parole officer that Yen will be released from the Department of Corrections next week.

In March 2002, Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama handed down a 12-year prison sentence on Yen for four counts of theft by deception. Lizama said that, after completing the jail term, Yen shall be placed on probation for 13 years. Lizama ordered the defendant to pay restitution in the amount of \$803,632 to the victims who have not been repaid. Yen, also known as Mary Yen, was required to pay \$1,000 fine, \$100 in assessment fee, and \$100 in probation fee.

According to court papers, in May, June and July 2000 until

March 8, 2001, the defendant received money from various persons on Saipan on the promise that she would repay them the principal amount plus 10 percent interest one year after she received the money.

Yen, however, spent the money received from the depositors on poker and in running her businesses and fixing her leased property.

When the checks became due, the businesswoman did not have the money to pay them. The depositors lost their money.

Police arrested Yen in March 2001 after several angry depositors chased her in Susupe. She apparently admitted to investigators that with her banking scheme she collected over \$700,000 from about 80 to 100 workers from L&T, Grace Garment, Onwell Garment, and other garment factories.

At the time, Yen owned the Mary Mini Mart Store in Chalan Kanoa.

DPH looking to explore telemedicine

In an effort to run things more conveniently, the Department of Public Health said that telemedicine is one area that the department is exploring.

Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said that DPH is looking to develop its Information Technology capabilities and that telemedicine "is certainly one area that we will be exploring to its fullest potential."

"We [health care staff and officials] are constantly working to make things run smoother at DPH," Villagomez said.

"Because of the economic downturn, we are even more proactive to maximize our current resources and decrease unfunded expenditures as much as possible."

Telemedicine technology at the Guam Memorial Hospital has given Guam patients the opportunity to be "seen" by doctors from some of the nation's best hospitals without having to leave the island.

This advancement is expected to reduce the number of off-island referrals. The CNMI spends up to \$5 million annually on medical referrals of patients. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

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Fitial favors civil service conversions at LB

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Fitial administration yesterday backed a suggestion made by House of Representatives Ways and Means chair Ray Yumul to convert Legislative Bureau staff into civil service employees.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary Charles P. Reyes said the Fitial administration is in favor of changing as many contract employees into civil service status as possible.

"The administration is fully complying with the salary cap law, and the governor still favors moving more employees into civil service to remove or

diminish political considerations from government employment. In general, civil service employees also receive lower pay compared to contracted employees. The governor needs legislative support for this effort."

Last week, Yumul said that one solution for agencies with over-the-salary-cap employees is to follow the lead of the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority.

"Let's go down to OPM [Office of Personnel Management] and have them do what they've done with MPLA when it was converted to DPL. They did a review of all the salaries and, based on OPM's recommendations, corrected the salaries to reflect that of a civil service po-

sition and the salary commensurate with that," he said.

Yumul added that he and Senate President Pete Reyes are in favor of making Legislative Bureau employees fall under the civil service.

"I'm actually contemplating that because for one, it gets the Legislature's hands off the [Legislative] Bureau so that it's not political. At the same time, it helps correct certain salaries because we're looking at reduction in revenues and we're looking at severe streamlining of expenditures, which would reflect a reduction in force, austerity holidays and Fridays being implemented and this is the best place to start," he said.

Yumul also added that since

staff of the Legislative Bureau are renewed each year, the House and Senate legal counsel should check if allowing certain employees to receive over-the-salary cap wages is not violation of the law.

The congressman's suggestion of converting contract employees into civil service came on the heels of the House passing H.B. 16-30 on Wednesday, which seeks to "repeal and re-enact 1 CMC 8248 (B), as amended by Public Law 15-81, to provide for flexibility, parity, and accountability in the compensation paid by the Commonwealth government in order to attract and retain qualified and dedicated professionals to serve the needs of the Commonwealth."

AGO files charges vs two men for alleged burglary

The Attorney General's Office has filed charges against two men who allegedly burglarized the house of a police officer's mother.

Chief Prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. charged Wainy William Moses and Joshua Lee Santos with burglary and theft.

Warfield stated in the charging document that Moses and Santos burglarized the house of Rita Celis on April 7, 2007, stealing a Toshiba laptop.

Last week the Department of Public Safety announced that they are hunting down the 21-

year-old Moses. As of yesterday, it was not clear yet if Moses has already been arrested. Santos, 20, is already in police custody.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that Moses and Santos were involved in the burglary at the residence of Celis in Koblerville. Celis is the mother of Police Officer Regino Celis.

It was Officer Celis himself who reportedly saw his mother's stolen laptop that was allegedly sold by Moses and Santos to the No. 1 Bar in Chalan Kanoa. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



MATH WIZARD

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jojo and Malou Berueco are sure proud of their son, Jolo Miko Berueco, second from left, who was named silver medalist in the recently concluded Math Court Regionals at Dandan Elementary School on March 15, 2008, in the Data, Statistics, and Probability event. Jolo Miko is shown here with his teacher-coach Sony Natividad, along with Green Meadow School principal Marilyn Divino and president Mila Merjilla during his recent Math Court Competition. Congratulations to Jolo, from your GMS family! We are proud of you!

Possible Prior Service benefits

The following individuals or their surviving spouse may be eligible for Prior Service benefits. If you or your deceased spouse's name is listed below and you worked for the U.S. Navy or Trust Territory Government for five or more years before July 1, 1968, call the Prior Service Office at 322-9753 only on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 8am and noon.

If your name is listed below and you are still working for the government or private sector, please do not call until you retire. Previous lists were published on March 5, March 9, March 13, and March 17, 2008. Visit the Archives section of www.saipantribune.com to check previous lists.

■ Rosario Magdalena Sablan
■ Sablan Francisco G
■ Sablan Gregorio I
■ Sablan Gregorio I
■ Sablan Herman DLG
■ Sablan Herman S
■ Sablan Jesus D
■ Sablan Joaquin LG
■ Sablan Joaquin T

■ Sablan Jose SN
■ Sablan Juan T
■ Sablan Nicolas T
■ Sablan Pedro
■ Sablan Pedro O
■ Sablan Richardo S
■ Sablan Rita S
■ Sablan Vicente S
■ Salas Carlos Concepcion
■ Salas Jesus Taitano
■ Salas Obed Celis
■ San Nicolas Guillermina H
■ San Nicolas Jesus Lizama
■ San Nicolas Jose A
■ Sanchez Jose Aguon
■ Sanchez Juan Aguon
■ Santos Gonzalo Quitugua
■ Santos Jesus Naputi
■ Santos Manuel St. Maria
■ Santos Ronald M
■ Santos Vicente Naputi
■ Santos Vicente Torres
■ Sasakura Daniel D
■ Sasamoto Jose
■ Sasamoto Luis A
■ Selepeo Herman
■ Seman Maria C
■ Somol Jesus O
■ Somorang Ambrocio
■ Songao Estanislao A
■ Taisacan Francisco M

Lawmakers talk of PUC's plans for utilities

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kimberlyn King-Hinds, a nominee for the Public Utilities Commission, and the current commission members, Viola Alepuyo and Kyle Calabrese, met with some lawmakers yesterday to discuss the commission's plans to solve the utilities

crisis on the island.

The meeting, held at 2pm in the Speaker's Conference Room, was attended by Reps. Frank dela Cruz, Stanley Torres, Tina Sablan, Edwin Aldan, and Rosemond Santos, as well as Teresa Kim, legal counsel of Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez. The meeting lasted an hour.

The meeting was seen as an

opportunity for members of the Legislature to interview King-Hinds relating to her PUC nomination, and to discuss with all three the scope of responsibilities they are preparing to take on as PUC members, their vision for the future of public utilities in the CNMI, and anticipated challenges, opportunities, needs, and resources.

Sablan, who had initiated the meeting, said it was also an opportunity to re-examine the confirmation process for PUC nominees, and explore possibilities for improvement in the future confirmation of the remaining PUC members.

Sablan had earlier urged the Legislature to take a more proactive approach in the review of nominees, especially for critical positions like the PUC.

Sablan brought up the issue after the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee adopted H.C.R. 16-6, which recommended the appointment of King-Hinds to serve as a PUC member representing Tinian.

Sablan said she would have wanted a face-to-face dialogue with the nominee before the adoption of the committee report.

"It seemed to me that there was a rather perplexing reluctance among my colleagues to schedule

a confirmation hearing for Ms. King-Hinds. I do not believe the other two already confirmed PUC members were called in for hearings either. I understand that Ms. King Hinds was confirmed by the Senate before she even took her drug test," she said.

She said she understand the urgency that members feel in appointing a third member to the PUC in a timely manner, as a third member means that there would be a quorum and the commission can finally get to work.

"However, considering the dire straits into which our public utilities have fallen, it would seem to me that carefully considering

the backgrounds, qualifications, and capabilities of all nominees would be just as important to ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of the Public Utilities Commission as establishing a quorum. Resumes, statements of financial interest, and drug test results are only part of the picture we should be considering," said Sablan.

She stressed that she has no axe to grind with King-Hinds. "This is simply about taking our jobs as legislators and the job of a public utilities commissioner seriously enough to care about exercising due diligence in the review of any PUC nomination."

CMS offers summer internship for college, university students

College or university students from the CNMI are being urged to participate in a 12-week summer internship program that will familiarize them with the programs, mission, vision, and goals of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

CMS is the Federal agency that administers the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Programs.

The CMS Diversity Summer Internship Program will familiarize participants about federal, state, and local health care programs serving underserved and uninsured populations.

It is offered to college/university students of Asian-American and Pacific Islander-descent, and to students attending Hispanic serving institutions or of Hispanic descent, historically black colleges and universities, and tribal colleges and universities.

Dates of employment

Students may begin the program as early as May 12, 2008. The date the student begins the program will determine when the 12-week appointment ends. All appointments must be completed by Sept. 12, 2008.

Eligibility and application process

In order to qualify, students MUST meet one of the following requirements:

- a student of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent
- a student attending a Hispanic Serving Institution or of Hispanic descent
- a student attending a historically black college and university, or a tribal college and university

Only applications from students who are U.S. citizens will be accepted for this program.

All applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 and a minimum of 60 undergraduate credits as of May 16, 2008. Students who should apply are majoring in areas related to the:

- Health Care field (e.g. healthcare administration, public health, etc.),
- Administration field (e.g. business administration, accounting, math, etc.),
- Information Technology field,
- Social Science field (e.g. psychology, social work, sociology, etc.),
- Policy field (e.g. public policy, political science, public

administration, etc.), or

- Science field (e.g. pre-med, biology, etc.).

Applicants must also be currently enrolled in school for the fall 2008 semester to qualify.

There is no formal application; however, a student's package must contain a detailed resume (including social security number, date of birth and citizenship) and an unofficial transcript. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the Department of Health & Human Services Applicant Background Survey (http://www.cdc.gov/hrmo/OMB_form.htm) and submit it with their application package.

Students must also indicate the date they will be available to begin the program and geographical preference, if selected. The requested materials must be emailed as attachments to Marla Lazarus at Marla.Lazarus@cms.hhs.gov with a subject line of "Diversity Summer Internship Program."

Deadline for submitting applications

To be considered for the program, applications must be received by Friday, April 4, 2008.

Salary and Place of Employment

The salary is approximately \$13-\$15 per hour for a 40-hour work-week, but will vary with different levels of education. This amount will also vary in some areas according to the locality pay for specific regions. Interns are responsible for their own living arrangements and transportation costs. Employment opportunities are available at CMS sites in Boston, Massachusetts; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; Denver, Colorado; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; Miami, Florida; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Employment site preference(s) should be indicated on the student's resume.

Selected students will be responsible for costs incurred should they relocate to participate in the program.

CMS Contact

For more information about the summer program, contact Marla Lazarus at Marla.Lazarus@cms.hhs.gov or at 410-786-7817. (CMS)



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Rotary optimistic on raising \$35K

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The target goal for this year's biggest fundraising event of the Saipan Rotary Club is an ambitious \$35,000 but club officials are optimistic that they can achieve this during its Las Vegas Night.

"I know that \$35,000 is a little bit optimistic but I really do believe it's achievable," Rotarian member Rep. Ed Salas said.

In previous years, Las Vegas Night had generated over

\$10,000. The funds raised through this event support a number of the Rotary Club's humanitarian and community projects.

The event, which will likely be held this July, will feature favorable casino games such as Black Jack, Texas Hold 'Em, roulette, craps, and Bingo.

Prizes at stake are cash prizes and possibly a brand new car.

Salas said the projected cost of prizes is around \$20,200 "so our net profit is about \$14,800."

He added that everything would depend on how well the Rotary Club does on the floor.

For the roulette, the Club needs to put on the floor between \$5,000 to \$6,000; Bingo, \$2,500; Black Jack, \$2,400; Texas Hold 'Em, \$600; and company ads, \$600.

Salas said he is a little bit concerned about the money that will be sent on the floor but that he believes that \$35,000 can be exceeded.

"The more we do, the more net profit we'll have," Salas said.

'Rota scholarship seems to be at standstill'

Rota students are in need of financial assistance to pursue higher education but nothing seems to be happening with the Rota Municipal Scholarship.

Rota Municipal Council member Vicente M. Calvo is asking Rota Mayor Joseph Inos about the status of the Rota Municipal Scholarship because the

local board who handles the scholarship "seems to be inactive."

The Rota Municipal Scholarship board has a total of five members who are appointed by the mayor.

The scholarship was to be offered to adult individuals or students attending postsecondary

institutions.

The Rota legislative delegation enacted the law creating the scholarship program after finding that there is great need to provide Rota's people with scholarship grants and educational loans to help pursue college studies. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

NMC Charter Day Committee seeking vendors

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee is inviting different agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate in the upcoming Charter Day celebration. Organizations may purchase booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, and retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc).

The Charter Day Celebration will be held on April 11, 2008 at the As Terlaje Campus from 3pm to 10pm. The event is one of NMC's largest and most-attended events.

Reserve booth space by paying the \$100 one-time fee (which covers the tents booth and access to 110v electricity outlets). Contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email queannas@nmnet.edu if you have any questions. (NMC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 20, 2000

Lang eyes comeback in 2001 election

Eyeing another shot at the highest post in the Commonwealth, former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio disclosed last Friday he would launch his bid for the gubernatorial election next year under the Reform Party. At the same time, he criticized the present administration for using him as a scapegoat for most of the problems dogging the CNMI, saying it is time for a change in order to improve the island's economy.

Purple Heart awarded to Dela Cruz

He was barely out of teens when the U.S. military seized Saipan from the hands of the Japanese forces. As his family hid from the horrors of World War II, 19-year-old Cristino Dela Cruz made a decision that forever changed the course of his life. Tapped by U.S. marines to help them defend the island from its invaders, he became a native scout/guide and risked his life—twice.

China Airlines plans to fly Taiwan-Saipan

Following a successful deployment of flights between Taipei and Guam, China Airlines is planning to expand its air transport services to Saipan by middle of this year, according to Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas. Mr. Salas revealed that talks are already underway between CPA officials and China Air executives on the possibility of deploying flights between Taiwan's capital and Saipan by June or July this year.

MARCH 20, 2001

Tougher prostitution law on the way

Legislators are now working on the amended version of the anti-prostitution law, seen to mete out sex workers and pimps with tighter penalties that may include longer jail term and deportation for non-Americans. House Committee on Health and Welfare Chair Malua Peter said work is now underway for the incorporation of proposals submitted by the Department of Public Safety to the amended version of the law.

CDA threatens to takeover CUC

The Commonwealth Development Authority warned that it may takeover the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation if the power firm continues to ignore demands to pay its \$150 million debt. During the inquiry called in yesterday by House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Chair Rosiky Camacho, CDA underscored CUC's obligation's to pay both the principal and the interest of the multi-million dollar loan.

Japanese firm eyes building 18-hole golf course on Tinian

The Office of Public Lands yesterday confirmed it had approved in concept a proposal to build a golf course on Tinian. Director Bertha Leon Guerrero acknowledged that her office received a proposal from Japanese company, Life Up Inc., and that she had authorized her staff to meet with the firm's representatives to discuss the proposal in more detail.

MARCH 20, 2002

'Bombing to go on'

The U.S. Navy has indicated that, even if the court has already ruled in favor of the Center for Biological Diversity on the matter of the Farallon de Mendinilla bombing, it would wait for a court injunction before it halts bombing practices on the island. At the same time, CBD counsel Paul Achitoff said there is no negotiations going on between the CBD and the U.S. Navy as to the cessation of bombing exercises on Farallon de Mendinilla, following the court's ruling on the case.

Manglona: Map out strategy in FDM issue

Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the best way to handle the recent court ruling that U.S. military bombings on the Farallon de Mendinilla violates a bird treaty is for the CNMI to map out a single approach that would balance the need to protect the environment and the economic survival of the local economy. At the same time, Manglona stressed that, although the CNMI is not a party to the lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against the U.S. military, the Commonwealth still has to be concerned over the court's adverse ruling against the U.S. military as it would directly affect revenue-generating efforts of the CNMI.

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EDITORIAL

Painful days ahead

The Federal Reserve's extraordinary response Sunday to Bear Stearns Cos.' looming collapse signals an unnerving new phase in the protracted credit crunch. No longer is the Fed simply pumping money into the economy to promote lending. It is now putting taxpayers on the hook for investments of uncertain value and extending federal help to Wall Street firms whose activities haven't been regulated as closely as commercial banks.

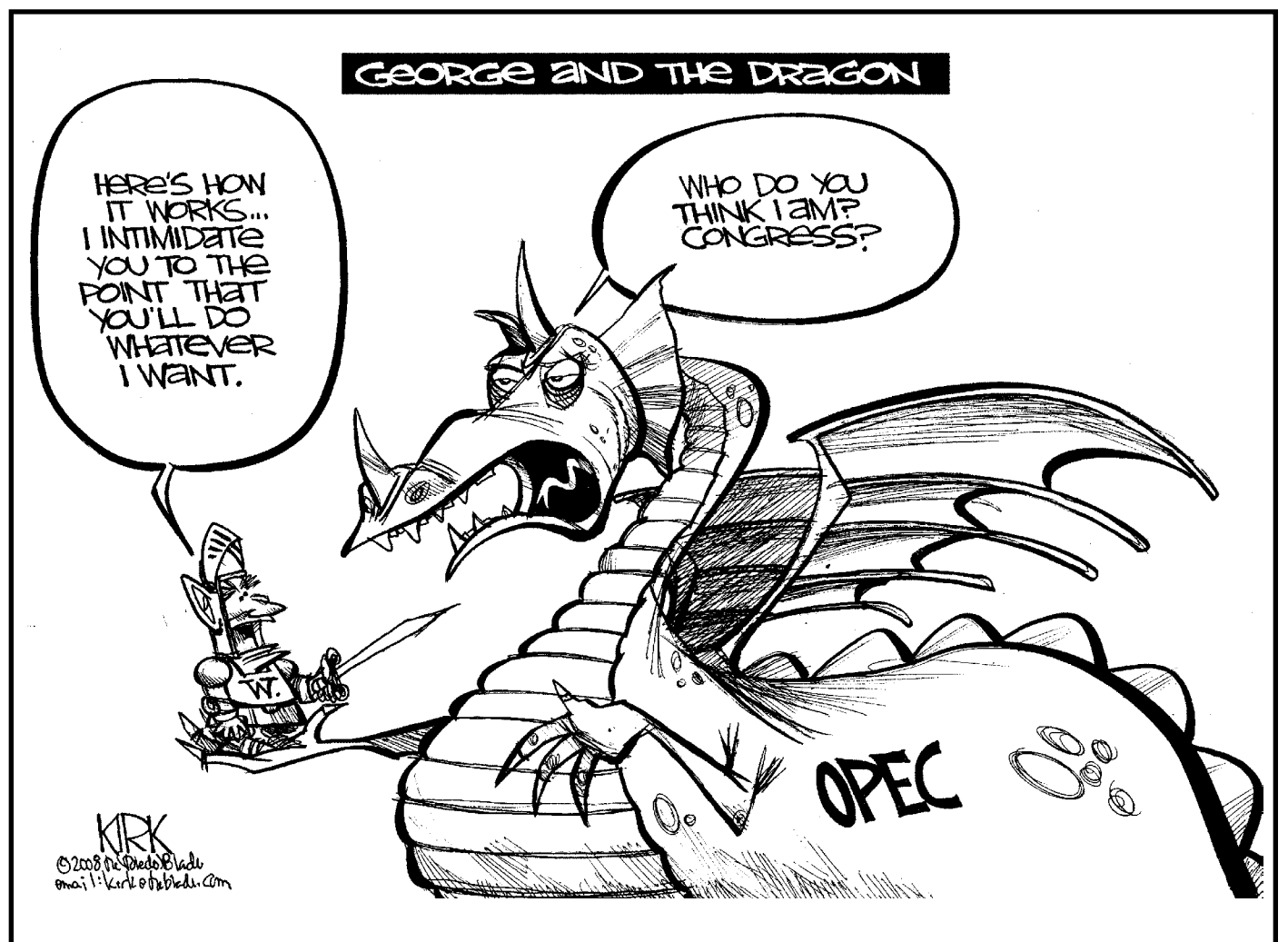
The escalating efforts by the Fed reflect how stubbornly the frozen credit markets have resisted efforts to thaw them. Lenders have become so skittish about risk that they pushed Bear Stearns, one of Wall Street's storied institutions, to the brink of insolvency. Its board agreed Sunday to sell the troubled firm to JPMorgan Chase & Co. for about \$250 million, or less than a quarter of the value of the Manhattan building that served as Bear Stearns' headquarters.

The Bush administration tried to dole out a ration of calm Monday. The country is going through challenging times, President Bush said, but "our capital markets are functioning efficiently and effectively." White House Press Secretary Dana Perino later added, "This isn't about bailing anyone out." Neither happens to be true, though, and that's why the stock market gyrated from open to close.

Contrary to the president's assessment, U.S. capital markets seem anything but healthy. The innovations that helped extend credit to more borrowers are now showing a flip side that asleep-at-the-switch regulators and policymakers didn't anticipate. Foremost among these double-edged innovations are the complex securities that bundled scores of sub-prime and other risky mortgages into packages. These proved wildly popular around the globe, largely because they were supposedly structured to guard against losses. But when housing values started slipping and defaults multiplied, the securities turned into financial albatrosses that firms could no longer sell or use as collateral to raise cash.

Bear Stearns' problems are just the most acute example of the crisis of confidence that those securities helped cause. Other firms that rely on short-term borrowing to finance their operations could face the same challenges, depending on how much of their balance sheets are taken up by exotic and unmarketable financial instruments. In addition, investment banks, hedge funds and commercial banks around the world have become so interconnected that the failure of one could send shock waves through the entire industry. That's why the Fed bailed out Bear

See PAINFUL on Page 11



Practicing my culture

Sometime in the last 20 years, indigenous people in the CNMI came to understand conservation as a bunch of *hao-les* telling us not to fish, not to feed our families, and not to practice our culture. We have been mistaken. Conservation has always been an integral part of our Micronesian culture. I learned it from my father and I know other people on this island learned it from theirs. Even so, times have changed. Our island has changed. The definition of conservation has changed along with it.

Old habits and old technologies result in expected outcomes.

A thousand years ago, when one of our Chamorro (or Carolinian) ancestors went out to catch fish using the technology available to him at the time, he could safely assume that he wasn't depleting his resource. No new technology was going to be introduced to help him catch more fish and no huge influx of off-islanders would be coming to his home anytime soon (at least for another 500 years).

The only things he needed to navigate his world were the stars, the waves, and the wind. He lived the way his grandparents lived and he could expect his grandchildren to live the same way.

However, that was 1,000 years ago. Times have changed. We now have more people and new technologies.

When people use old habits combined with new technologies, unexpected outcomes occur.

Fish & Wildlife admits that SCUBA spearfishing nearly decimated our Napoleon wrasse population. In the 1990s monofilament gill nets wiped out the turtle population in our lagoon.

When these new technologies were introduced, they weren't introduced with the intent of destroying our natural resources. We just wanted to catch more fish, feed our families, and practice our culture.

Even so, old habits (catching as much as you can to share with family and friends) combined with new technologies (diving deeper and longer with SCUBA and better nets) led to a decline in the resource (an unexpected outcome).

Fortunately the CNMI was able to identify both of these new technologies as destructive. Both technologies have since been banned.

Culture and conservation are integrally linked.

One day when my parents were still married, my father shot a Mariana mallard on our family property. He ate it.

A few days later my mother was visiting with an American wildlife biologist working on Saipan. Inside his office was a picture of a similar mallard and my mother told the biologist that her husband had just shot and eaten a bird just like the one in the picture.

The biologist replied, "That was probably the last one."

My father did not purposely eat the last mallard. He was just practicing his culture. If you had asked him about the bird on the day he shot it, he would probably have told you that he knew where to find more.

By ANGELO VILLAGOMEZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Angelo Villagomez is the executive director of the Mariana Island Nature Alliance and is a co-founder of the Beautify CNMI coalition.



I don't recount that story to try to paint my father in a negative light; I just use it to highlight my point. He had spent his whole life shooting and eating that bird and probably expected his children to spend their whole lives shooting and eating that bird. He was only feeding his family. He was practicing his culture.

However, old habits (hunting every bird you see) combined with new technologies (more people with better rifles than centuries past) led to extinction (the shelling of Saipan during World War II didn't help either).

Am I less Chamorro because I will never see a Mariana mallard? Am I less Chamorro because I will never taste one? And is Saipan less Saipan because we no longer have bats, barely any coconut crabs, and fewer turtles and reef fish?

If eating certain foods is part of our culture, then what does it say about our culture when we allow that food to go extinct? Will our culture go extinct along with the resource?

We are the people of the land and these islands define who we are as a people. It is the responsibility of every indigenous person to ensure that these islands are passed down to the next generation in the same condition in which they were passed down to us.

I take that promise seriously. This is how I practice my culture.

In the upcoming weeks a new project to create "a National Park of the Sea" will be introduced to the people of the CNMI. Some people know about it. Some people only think they know about it. Some support it; others do not.

Undoubtedly there will be a lot of discussion about this project. I suspect there will be presentations and public hearings. There will also be rumors and lies.

I ask that everyone educate themselves about this issue before forming an opinion.

As for me, I support this project.

If the Commonwealth takes the leadership to make this project happen, the CNMI would gain more control over our waters, our economy would benefit greatly, we could create local jobs, we would keep illegal foreign fishing boats from other countries from taking our fish, and still allow indigenous fishermen to fish for generations to come.

More importantly, our children will be able to practice their culture the way we practice ours.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Thinking for a change

"If the rate of change outside your organization is greater than the rate of change inside your organization, then the end is in sight."—*Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric*

Innovation is essential to companies that want to sustain growth. Coming up with new products and ways of serving your customers are critical if you want to remain in business. Change happens, and if your organization stands still while the world moves ahead, then your business is really falling behind.

Google was recently named by Fast Company magazine as the world's most innovative company. It was interesting to read the comments of people who work for Google, and it became obvious that the cofounders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, created an environment that fosters creative thinking and innovation on a massive scale.

In fact, the values at Google are a direct reflection of the cofounder's values, and they have been instilled throughout every level of the organization. Executive chef (as in top cook) Josef Desimone said that he's never seen anything like Google. The company has exposed him "...to new ways of life, new ideas and life philosophies. Where do you go from here?"

A powerful theme that emerges from the employees is that they feel that their work can change the world! Prospective employees are specifically asked: "If you could change the world using Google's resources, what would you build?"

Could you imagine what it would be like to work for this type of

company? Could your employees say that they have been exposed to new ideas and life philosophies, and after working for your company there is no other place to go?

In the 10 years that Google has made its imprint on the world, it has become a \$14 billion company; yet, it continues to imbue a sense of creative fearlessness among its 16,000 employees. It's constantly looking to reinvent itself, and to make it easy for people to explore the rich veins of information that are constantly opening up around us. Imagine reinventing your business over again. What would you keep and continue to do? What would you do less of, and what would you stop doing completely?

Which employees would you rehire, and try to find more like them, and which ones would you avoid like the plague? Great people look for stimulating organizations that allow them to learn new things and contribute to the growth of a thriving company, and innovative people are attracted like moths to porch lamps to companies that are innovative.

Would you allow your people to experiment and take risks in your reinvented company? Google has a high tolerance for chaos and ambiguity. According to engineering director David Glazer, the company encourages experimentation by just doing something. "What's true in physics about objects in motion is true when you're creating a product. It's easier to keep moving and change course than when you're sitting and thinking and thinking."

Would you maintain your current policies and procedures? Would you develop new ones? Or, would you expect the high-quality peo-

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



ple you hire to exercise good judgment in their decisions? This may be a tough question because one might think that a large company like Google has a policy for everything. We've even written about the importance of having policies and procedures in place as your business grows, and we have worked with clients to develop their policies and procedures. However, when Andy Rubin's company was acquired by Google, he found that there weren't a lot of rules and regulations. In one instance, he asked about their travel policy and he was simply told not to overspend.

Would it be reasonable to expect some of the CNMI government's frequent fliers to not overspend, and expect them to adhere to it? Innovative companies are liberal with their resources because they trust their people to be responsible with them. As the world continues to rapidly change around us, it's important to stay ahead by changing how we think, what we do, and how we do it? If not, the questions that will eventually be asked are: What got us into this sorry situation, and how do we close down with minimum losses?

Letters to the Editor

Corruption at Rota DPS

This issue is based on the mismanagement of the department due to the many unlawful acts that have been done. However, I strongly agree that there should be an investigation made on this matter because it is not nice for people to know that the enforcers are also committing many illegal acts.

Based on my previous observations during the duration of my stay, I've been noticing many wrongdoings and illegal attempts that some officers have made. This needs to be voiced out because there is this saying that I strongly believe: "No one is above the law." If any person believes this as well, then this is not a good image for the public to see in their role models.

I am saying this because I am concerned for other people who have suffered, with their cases being followed up and with officers having cases that are not being prosecuted. Instead, they are all under the table, meaning they are set aside and not being followed up. If further investigated, there should be termination for those who have pending criminal cases and are still working at the Department of Public Safety.

I thought the officers are our enforcers and are able to show the people their good judgment. Instead they tend to do something in which they cover one another's cases and keep doing illegal acts. The corruption in this department is the main problem. Everything, every move is corrupted! Quit the dirty dealings and move forward on how the management should be taken care of. Politics shouldn't be involved in this department because this deals with serious matters.

Therefore, I suggest that there should be investigation made because this shouldn't be happening and I believe that it will not do any better for the department and the safety of the people. Mr. Clyde Norita, since you have been appointed to be the DPS commissioner, I highly suggest that you take a look at this issue and get this going. I believe that you have the ability to take care of this matter because the management is not in shape and it is a possibility that the director and deputy director of the Rota DPS are not doing their job and are not competent in handling this situation. Investigation is needed right away.

Abigail Manglona
Yona, Guam

Thank you!

A few weeks ago we were hiking the Banadero Trail and one of our group had an accident. The EMTs were wonderful about getting him out in the rain and the slippery slopes. It took a lot of work and patience and we are very appreciative of their hard work and cheerful attitude. Thanks so much EMTs and DPS!

Donna White
Bruce Delisle
Bren Macmillan
Tanapag, Saipan

The new face of hunger

The price of food is soaring. The threat of hunger and malnutrition is growing. Millions of the world's most vulnerable people are at risk.

An effective and urgent response is needed.

The first of the Millennium Development Goals, set by world leaders at the U.N. summit in 2000, aims to reduce the proportion of hungry people by half by 2015. This was already a major challenge, not least in Africa, where many nations have fallen behind. But we are also facing a perfect storm of new challenges.

The prices of basic staples—wheat, corn, rice—are at record highs, up 50 percent or more in the past six months. Global food stocks are at historic lows. The causes range from rising demand in major economies such as India and China to climate- and weather-related events such as hurricanes, floods and droughts that have devastated harvests in many parts of the world. High oil prices have increased the cost of transporting food and purchasing fertilizer. Some experts say the rise of biofuels has reduced the amount of food available for humans.

The effects are widely seen. Food riots have erupted from West Africa to South Asia. In countries where food has to be imported to feed hungry populations, communities are rising to protest the high cost of living. Fragile democracies are feeling the pressure of food insecurity. Many governments have issued export bans and price controls on food, distorting markets and presenting challenges to commerce.

In January, to cite one example, Afghan President Hamid Karzai appealed for \$77 million to help provide food for more than 2.5 million people pushed over the edge by rising prices. He drew attention to an alarming fact: The average Afghan household now spends about 45 percent of its income on food, up from 11 percent in 2006.

This is the new face of hunger, increasingly affecting communities that had previously been protected. Inevitably, it is the "bottom billion" who are hit hardest: people living on one dollar a day or less. When people are that poor, and inflation erodes their meager earnings, they generally do one of two things: They buy less food, or they buy cheaper, less nutritious food. The result is the same—more hunger and less chance of a healthy future. The U.N. World Food Program is seeing families that previously could afford a diverse, nutritious diet dropping to one staple and cutting their meals from three to two or one a day.

Experts believe that high food prices may be here to stay. Even so, we have the tools and technology to beat hunger and meet the Millennium Development Goals. We know what to do. What is required are

not to Bear Stearns' shareholders, who were not spared in the deal, but to the entire credit system.

But the Fed's efforts, including its widely expected move to cut interest rates Tuesday, address the credit markets' psychology rather than their structural problems, which await a painful day of reckoning. The

political will and resources, directed effectively and efficiently.

First, we must meet urgent humanitarian needs. This year, the World Food Program plans to feed 73 million people globally, including as many as 3 million people each day in Darfur. To do so, the program requires an additional \$500 million simply to cover the rise in food costs. (Note: 80 percent of the agency's purchases are made in the developing world.)

Second, we must strengthen U.N. programs to help developing countries deal with hunger. This must include support for safety-net programs to provide social protection, in the face of urgent need, while working on longer-term solutions. We also need to develop early-warning systems to reduce the impact of disasters. School meals—at a cost of less than 25 cents a day—can be a particularly powerful tool.

Third, we must deal with the increasing consequences of weather-related shocks to local agriculture, as well as the long-term consequences of climate change—for example, by building drought and flood defense systems that can help food-insecure communities cope and adapt.

Last, we must boost agricultural production. World Bank President Robert Zoellick has rightly noted that there is no reason Africa can't experience a "green revolution" of the sort that transformed Southeast Asia in previous decades. U.N. agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development are working with the African Union and others to do just this, introducing vital science and technologies that offer permanent solutions for hunger.

Simply improving market efficiency can have a huge effect. Roughly a third of the world's food shortages could be alleviated to a significant degree by improving local agricultural distribution networks and helping to better connect small farmers to markets.

But that is for the future. In the here and now, we must help the hungry people hit by rising food prices. That means, for starters, recognizing the urgency of the crisis—and acting.

Fed can't declare how much the shaky securities are worth; that's ultimately up to the credit market to decide. Their values are likely to remain in flux until the housing market bottoms out and foreclosures decline sharply. Although lenders have a strong interest in minimizing foreclosures while housing prices are in free-fall, they have been slow

to head them off. That's why Congress and the administration need to find more incentives for lenders to move more aggressively to write off mortgage debt that they can't collect and put realistic values on the loans that have clouded the credit markets' vision.



By BAN KI-MOON

Special to The Washington Post

The writer is secretary general of the United Nations.

PAINFUL

From Page 10






Stearns, sealing the deal by JPMorgan with what amounts to \$30 billion in taxpayer-backed guarantees for the firm's assets. The Fed's board believed that the effect of a swift collapse would cause too much damage

to Bear Stearns' shareholders, who were not spared in the deal, but to the entire credit system.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲84° ▼74°	▲84° ▼74°	▲84° ▼75°	▲84° ▼74°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼68
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼73
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Cloudy	▲82 ▼78

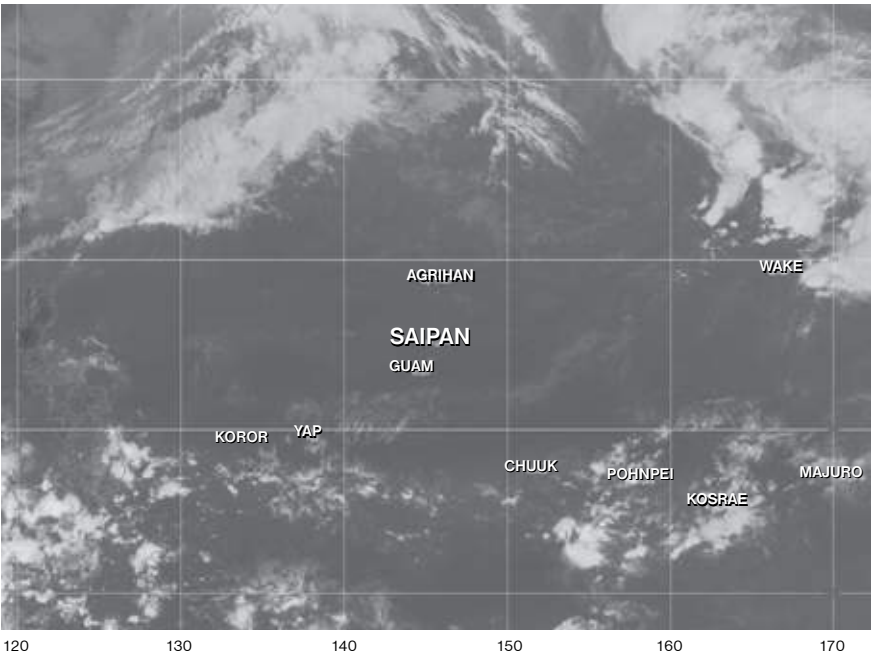
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲73 ▼64
Beijing	Showers	▲56 ▼41
Hong Kong	Rain	▲74 ▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼71
London	Windy	▲48 ▼34
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲70 ▼50
Manila	Cloudy	▲92 ▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼47
Miami	Cloudy	▲84 ▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲47 ▼33
Osaka	Rain	▲52 ▼38
Paris	Showers	▲45 ▼37
Pusan	Sunny	▲57 ▼37
Rome	Cloudy	▲53 ▼38
Salem	Rain	▲50 ▼35
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲60 ▼42
Seoul	Sunny	▲63 ▼34
Tokyo	Rain	▲51 ▼41
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲57 ▼34

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:49AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
07:20AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
01:22PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
06:50PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front located near the northwestern-most corner of the discussion area is associated with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms along and up to 180 miles northwest of a line from 25N134E TO 22N130E. Another cold front associated with a low-level circulation just north of the discussion area extends southwestward from 25N163E to 22N161E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 80 miles of the cold front. Moderate to strong low-level convergent winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in an area bounded by 25n180 to 20n180 to 17n170e to 25n165e. This area is just northeast of Wake island.Trade-wind convergence and a surface trough are combining to produce scattered showers in an area bounded by 1N154E TO 8N154 TO 7N165E to 3N165E and back to 1N154E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21AM	6:28PM
Friday	6:21AM	6:28PM
Saturday	6:20AM	6:28PM
Sunday	6:19AM	6:28PM
Monday	6:18AM	6:28PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	05:13PM	05:06AM
Friday	06:03PM	05:42AM
Saturday	06:51PM	06:18AM
Sunday	07:40PM	06:53AM
Monday	08:29PM	07:29AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Fed cuts interest; stocks soar

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve slashed a key interest rate by three-quarters of a point Tuesday, capping its most aggressive two months of action in a quarter-century in a battle to halt a spreading credit crisis. Wall Street loved it, bursting to its biggest gain in five years.

The strong Fed action seemed to convince investors, at least for now, that the central bank will do whatever it can to keep the country out of a steep recession.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day up 420.41 points at 12,392.66.

The latest Fed move brought the federal funds rate - the interest that banks charge each other - down to 2.25 percent, the lowest since late 2004.

That's important far beyond bank boardrooms. The reduction triggered announcements from commercial banks that they were cutting their prime lending rate to 5.25 percent from 6 percent. This rate is the

benchmark for millions of business and consumer loans.

The Fed action was designed to lower borrowing costs and boost spending by consumers and businesses and thus increase economic activity. Economic growth slowed to a near standstill in the final three months of last year as the nation was hit by a series of blows including the credit crunch, a prolonged housing slump, rising unemployment and surging energy prices.

The Federal Reserve has now cut its rate by three-fourths of a percentage point twice this year. The first occurred at an emergency meeting on Jan. 22 and was followed by a half-point cut at a regular meeting on Jan. 30. The three rate cuts over the course of two months represent the most aggressive Fed credit easing since mid-1982 when the Paul Volcker-led Fed was working to get the country out of a deep recession.

Bush: More help possible for economy

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—President Bush, eager to reassure a rattled country, said Tuesday that his administration is ready to intervene again to stabilize the economy.

"If there needs to be further action, we'll take it, in a way that does not damage the long-term financial health of our economy," Bush said along the docks of this port city.

It was the second signal in two days from Bush about the possibility of more government action to help hurting consumers and a shaken financial market. Much of his agenda these days is meant to show he is engaged in fixing the economy but still confident in it.

Bush was not specific about other steps he might take.

For now, he has championed the upcoming tax rebates for millions of people and tax breaks for businesses. And he has embraced action by the Federal Reserve, which keeps slashing interest rates and has helped finance the buyout of a collapsing financial giant.

The president has rejected other ideas from the Democratic Congress. Those include extending unemployment and food stamp benefits, and sparing homeowners from foreclosure by allowing bankruptcy judges to adjust loan rates.

Juxtaposed against the economic concern, Bush had a good day for the Republican Party.

In wealthy neighborhoods in Jacksonville and Palm Beach, Bush raised more than \$1.4 million for the Republican National Committee. Both fundraisers were closed to the media.



TROUBLING INFLATION

A grain transport truck is loaded up with corn, harvested in the fall of 2007, in Curran, Ill., Friday, March 14, 2008. Food prices have come under pressure because of the increased demand for corn in ethanol production. Wholesale prices rose again in February as another hefty increase in energy costs offset falling food prices. In another sign of troubles in housing, construction of new homes fell by a larger-than-expected 0.6 percent in February to an annual rate of 1.065 million units. The Labor Department reported Tuesday that wholesale prices were up 0.3 percent last month, following an even bigger 1 percent jump in January. Outside of food and energy, the rise in inflation was a troubling 0.5 percent, the biggest increase for core inflation since a rise of 0.9 percent in November 2006.

Oil rebounds on rate cut, stock rally

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices bounded higher Tuesday after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates three-quarters of a percentage point and a rally on Wall Street raised energy investors' hopes for the economy.

Retail gas prices, meanwhile, slipped slightly for the second day in a row, while diesel prices rose further above \$4 a gallon.

Oil was already higher, drawing support from the stock market's gains, when the Fed said it was lowering its key federal funds rate as it tries to stave off a severe economic crisis. Many investors expected a full point cut, but the Fed indicated it was concerned about higher inflation even as it was trying to shore up the economy.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose \$3.74 to settle at \$109.42 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Stocks soar, Dow rises 420 points

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street stormed higher Tuesday as investors, optimistic following stronger-than-expected earnings from two big investment banks, were also galvanized by the Federal Reserve's decision to cut interest rates by three-quarters of a percentage point. The Dow Jones industrial average soared 420 points, its biggest one-day point gain in

more than five years.

Many investors were expecting the Fed to cut rates a full point, but appeared to overcome their early disappointment, especially since a 0.75 point cut is still substantial. The central bank's benchmark fed funds rate is now at 2.25 percent—its lowest level since December 2004, and less than half what it was last summer. The Fed began lower-

ing rates exactly six months ago, after the credit markets seized up due to soaring defaults in subprime mortgages.

In its statement accompanying the rate decision, the Fed said "recent information indicates that the outlook for economic activity has weakened further," but also that "uncertainty about the inflation outlook has increased."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Visa raises \$17.9B in largest US IPO

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Visa Inc. raised \$17.9 billion late Tuesday to complete the largest initial public offering in U.S. history and help prop up the wobbly financial services industry. The world's largest processor of credit and debit cards sold 406 million shares at \$44 apiece to easily eclipse the previous U.S. record IPO of \$10.6 billion set by AT&T Wireless eight years ago. The IPO price topped the range of \$37 to \$42 per share that Visa set three weeks ago just before its executives began meeting with institutional investors and analysts to drum up interest. If investment

bankers exercise an option on another 40.6 million shares, Visa's IPO will end up raising \$19.7 billion before expenses.

Higher fuel prompts Delta to cut jobs

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air Lines, faced with a weak economy, dimmer hopes of a combination with Northwest Airlines and record fuel prices that are eating up profits, said Tuesday it will offer voluntary severance payouts to roughly 30,000 employees—more than half its work force—and cut U.S. capacity by an extra 5 percent. Executives at Atlanta-based Delta said in a memo to employees that the airline's goal

is to cut 2,000 frontline, administrative and management jobs through the severance program, attrition and other initiatives. The severance program primarily affects mainline Delta employees. One part of the program is for employees who are already eligible for retirement or for those whose age and years of service add up to at least 60, with 10 or more years of service.

Yahoo sees rosy outlook for 2009, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc. has released a rosy outlook for the next two years, hoping to give investors a better understanding why the slumping

Internet pioneer isn't willing to sell to Microsoft Corp. for less than \$45 billion. Analysts interpreted the company's unscheduled disclosure Tuesday as a sign that Yahoo's attempts to find an alternative deal to Microsoft's 6 1/2-week-old offer aren't bearing fruit. The Sunnyvale-based company has been exploring alliances with Google Inc., News Corp.'s MySpace.com and Time Warner Inc.'s AOL. With its options apparently narrowing, Yahoo is under pressure to justify its board's decision last month to rebuff a takeover offer that was 62 percent higher than the company's market value when the courtship began.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,332.700
Up 168.900
(+3.27%)

HONG KONG
22,001.22
Up 616.61
(+2.88%)

TOKYO
12,213.02
Up 248.86
(+2.08%)

MANILA
2,817.58
Up 40.16
(+1.45%)

SEOUL
1,622.2
Up 33.45
(+2.11%)

JAKARTA
2,345.166
Up 5.371
(+0.23%)

K. LUMPUR
1,180.02
Up 2.49
(+0.21%)

SINGAPORE
2,881.77
Up 48.19
(+1.70%)

BANGKOK
587.69
Up 1.92
(+0.33%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,392.66
+3.51%

NASDAQ
2,268.26
+4.19%

S&P
1,330.74
+4.24%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.073
British Pound	0.4971
Canadian Dollar	0.9906
Chinese Renmbi	7.067
Euro	0.6371
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7738
Indian Rupee	40.396
Indonesian Rupiah	9,215
Japanese Yen	99.22
Malaysian Ringgit	3.167
New Zealand Dollar	1.2293
Philippine Peso	41.576
Singapore Dollar	1.3795
South Korean Won	1,010.25
Swiss Franc	0.9961
Taiwan Dollar	30.646
Thailand Baht	31.14

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Bush says Iraq war was worth it

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush says he has no doubts about launching the unpopular war in Iraq despite the “high cost in lives and treasure,” arguing that retreat now would embolden Iran and provide al-Qaida with money for weapons of mass destruction to attack the United States.

Bush is to mark the fifth anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq on Wednesday with a speech at the Pentagon. Excerpts of his address were released Tuesday night by the White House.

At least 3,990 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the war in 2003. It has cost taxpayers about \$500 billion and estimates

of the final tab run far higher. Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz and Harvard University public finance expert Linda Bilmes have estimated the eventual cost at \$3 trillion when all the expenses, including long-term care for veterans, are calculated.

Democrats offered a different view from Bush's.

“On this grim milestone, it is worth remembering how we got into this situation, and thinking about how best we can get out,” said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich. “The tasks that remain in Iraq - to bring an end to sectarian conflict, to devise a way to share political power, and to create a functioning government that is capable of providing for the needs of the

Iraqi people are tasks that only the Iraqis can complete.”

In his remarks, Bush repeated his oft-stated determination to prosecute the war into the unforeseen future.

“The successes we are seeing in Iraq are undeniable, yet some in Washington still call for retreat,” the president said. “War critics can no longer credibly argue that we are losing in Iraq, so now they argue the war costs too much. In recent months, we have heard exaggerated estimates of the costs of this war.”

“No one would argue that this war has not come at a high cost in lives and treasure, but those costs

are necessary when we consider the cost of a strategic victory for our enemies in Iraq,” Bush said.

Bush has successfully defied efforts by the Democratic-led Congress to force troop withdrawals or set deadlines for pullouts. It is widely believed he will endorse a recommendation from Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, for no additional troop reductions, beyond those already planned, until at least September.

The U.S. now has about 158,000 troops in Iraq. That number is expected to drop to 140,000 by summer in drawdowns meant to erase all but about 8,000 troops

from last year's buildup.

“If we were to allow our enemies to prevail in Iraq, the violence that is now declining would accelerate and Iraq could descend into chaos,” Bush said. “Al-Qaida would regain its lost sanctuaries and establish new ones fomenting violence and terror that could spread beyond Iraq's borders, with serious consequences to the world economy.”

“Out of such chaos in Iraq, the terrorist movement could emerge emboldened with new recruits ... new resources ... and an even greater determination to dominate the region and harm America,” Bush said in his remarks. “An emboldened al-Qaida with access to Iraq's oil resources could pursue its ambitions to ac-

quire weapons of mass destruction to attack America and other free nations. Iran could be emboldened as well with a renewed determination to develop nuclear weapons and impose its brand of hegemony across the broader Middle East. And our enemies would see an American failure in Iraq as evidence of weakness and lack of resolve.”

Looking back, Bush said, “Five years into this battle, there is an understandable debate over whether the war was worth fighting ... whether the fight is worth winning ... and whether we can win it. The answers are clear to me: Removing Saddam Hussein from power was the right decision and this is a fight America can and must win.”



Bush

Detroit council asks mayor to resign

DETROIT (AP)—A defiant Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick quickly rejected the City Council's call Tuesday for him to resign because of accusations that he lied under oath about not having an affair.

“You take a whole day to discuss an issue like this,” he said. “My reaction is: This is over. It has no effect. It's not binding. Let's get back to work.”

The resolution, passed 7-1, amounted to a “no-confidence”

vote because the council lacks the power to force Kilpatrick to step down.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy is investigating whether the mayor and former Chief of Staff Christine Beatty lied under oath when they testified in a whistle-blowers' lawsuit that they had not had a physical relationship.

Kilpatrick has been dogged by media reports about steamy text messages the two exchanged that

suggest a romantic relationship.

The mayor said he could not comment on the text messages on Beatty's pager. Beatty resigned from her post in February.

City Council President Ken Cockrel Jr. would like Kilpatrick to do the same. “The message is, it's time to call it quits,” he said.

The lone vote against the resolution was cast by President Pro Tem Monica Conyers, the wife of U.S. Rep. John Conyers.

One councilwoman was absent because of illness.

“I believe that we have to do what's fair,” Monica Conyers said following the vote. “Based upon the evidence that was presented to me, there's nothing there yet for us to say ‘resign.’”

The council considered the issue two weeks ago but postponed a vote because some members said they needed more information before they could decide what to do.

Military to boost cyber-protections

WASHINGTON (AP)—The military is beefing up efforts to gather intelligence, fend off cyber-attacks and improve relations with other nations as part of a strategy for keeping the U.S. safe while fighting two wars, according to a Pentagon document.

The four-page plan acknowledges there is still a significant risk that the military cannot quickly and fully respond to another outbreak in the world and outlines what must be done to counter that threat.

Sent to Congress by Defense Secretary Robert Gates and obtained by The Associated Press, the plan relies heavily on building partnerships with other countries. It accompanied a classified risk assessment compiled by Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“The most important component in the ‘long war’ is not the fighting we do ourselves, but how well we help our partners defend and govern themselves,” Gates said in the plan. The term ‘long war’ refers to the global war against terrorism.

That would include providing more disaster relief around the globe to improve “the positive worldwide perception of the United States,” he said.



Eight co-workers in the Monongalia County Tax Office claim the \$276 million Powerball prize from the March 15th drawing at the West Virginia Lottery Offices in Charleston, W.Va., Tuesday, March 18, 2008. The winners are from left to right, front row, Linda Fominko, Amanda Pugh, Paula Pride, Andrea Grey, Jessica Dotson, back row, Judith Gapen, Crystal Magro and Allecia Priore.

Tax-office workers win \$276M lottery

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—After claiming a Powerball ticket worth \$276.3 million, eight employees of a sheriff's department tax office talked Tuesday about their relationships, helping family first—and getting back to work.

The women showed up at West Virginia Lottery headquarters in Charleston to accept a check for \$1 million. The rest of the prize money will be paid in two weeks.

Even so, they'll keep working. “At this point, everybody is,”

said Linda Fominko, one of the employees at the Monongalia County Sheriff's Office and the buyer of the winning ticket at a video poker bar in Westover. “But who knows down the line in a few months or a year?”

The women opted to take the \$139 million cash payout option and individually will receive \$11.9 million after taxes.

“Their friendship and camaraderie paid off big time,” Musgrave said. “I call them the Lucky Eight.”

The women, who say they play Powerball occasionally, range in service at the tax office from a year to Fominko's 35 years.

The office has 11 employees, but only eight contributed money for tickets in Saturday's drawing. Each contributed \$5, and it was the first time the group bought tickets at the bar.

Fominko, the sheriff's department's chief tax deputy, let a computer pick the winning numbers.

ACROSS THE NATION

Obama confronts racial division

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Barack Obama confronted the nation's racial divide head-on Tuesday, tackling both black grievance and white resentment in a bold effort to quiet a campaign uproar over race and his former pastor's incendiary statements. Obama urged the nation to break “a racial stalemate we've been stuck in for years.” “The anger is real,” he said. “It is powerful, and to simply wish it away, to condemn it without understanding its roots, only serves to widen the chasm of misunderstanding that exists between the races.” The speech, at the National Constitution Center, was by far the most prominent airing of racial issues in Obama's 13-month campaign to become the first black president. It was prompted by the wider notice his former pastor's racial statements have been receiving in the past week or so.

Clinton discusses Iraq with young vets

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton told a group of young veterans Tuesday that one lesson of the Iraq War is not to commit troops “unless you are prepared to go all the way and are prepared to be successful.” Questioned politely about her plans to begin withdrawing troops within 60 days after taking office, the former first lady also said U.S. forces already have fulfilled the mission they were assigned. She said the Iraqi government has failed to create a stable political system despite the U.S. effort. “Does that mean we stay for 10 years, 30 years, 50 years? And if at the end of it the Iraqis still haven't gotten their act together, we're going to be facing the same tough questions.”

4 killed in SoCal workplace shooting

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP)—Four men were shot to death in a junk yard Tuesday northwest of Los Angeles in what police said was “a case of workplace violence,” and a suspect was taken into custody. The shooting at Black Road Auto was reported about 4 p.m., and all four victims were dead by the time police and medics arrived, Police Chief Danny Macagni told the Santa Maria Times. The victims, whose names were not immediately released, were shot at close range, Macagni said. One victim was found outside the junk yard, and three were found inside. The gun used in the shooting was found at the scene.

Toxic mud is being removed in Montana

MILLTOWN, Mont. (AP)—Workers here are removing 2.2 million cubic yards of the muck - and dismantling the 101-year-old Milltown Dam—in Clark Fork River. For decades, metals released into the river by mining and ore-processing in the Butte area collected downstream in the sediment behind the hydroelectric dam, where the toxins are now threatening fish and polluting drinking water in the ground below. The dam is part of a big swath of southwestern Montana that has been designated the nation's largest Superfund cleanup site. Atlantic Richfield Co. assumed financial responsibility for the Milltown Dam site after a 1977 merger with Anaconda Co., the mining giant. ARCO is covering most of the estimated \$120 million cost of the cleanup, with the state, the Environmental Protection Agency and a local utility paying the rest.

Asia

Calls mount for Olympic ceremony boycott

PARIS (AP)—Moves to punish China over its handling of violence in Tibet gained momentum Tuesday, with a novel suggestion for a mini-boycott of the Beijing Olympics by VIPs at the opening ceremony.

Such a protest by world leaders would be a huge slap in the face for China's Communist leadership.

France's outspoken foreign minister, former humanitarian campaigner Bernard Kouchner, said the idea "is interesting."

Kouchner said he wants to discuss it with other foreign ministers from the 27-nation European Union next week. His comments opened a crack in what until now had been solid opposition to a full boycott, a stance that Kouchner said remains the official government position.

The idea of skipping the Aug. 8 opening ceremony "is less negative than a general boycott," Kouchner said. "We are considering it."

Asked about Kouchner's statement, China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya said: "Certainly I think what he said is not shared by most of the people in the world."

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said last month that he expects many heads of state—including President Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French



Tibetan exiles and supporters participate in a candlelight vigil in Dharmasala, India, Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

President Nicolas Sarkozy—to attend the opening ceremony.

Such an opening ceremony

boycott presumably would not include the athletes, who under Olympic rules are forbidden

from making any kind of protest at events or venues - including the opening ceremony.

U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Darryl Seibel said there are no rules forcing athletes to attend opening ceremonies.

"We strongly encourage our athletes to participate in opening ceremonies," Seibel said. "It is a tremendous honor to walk into the Olympic Stadium behind the flag of your nation, and to do so in a ceremony honoring and celebrating athletes from around the world."

The violent protests in Tibet, the most serious challenge in almost two decades to China's rule in the region, are forcing governments and human rights campaigners to re-examine their approach to the Aug. 8-24 games.

Human Rights Watch, which has not been pushing for a boycott, may soon change its stance and urge heads of state not to go to the opening ceremony, said Sophie Richardson, the New York-based group's Asia advocacy director. So far, the group has been suggesting that foreign leaders "think long and hard" about whether they want to be seen alongside China's leadership, she said in a telephone interview.

"Their presence at the games is going to be represented and reported by the Chinese government as a sign of approval," she added.

China: Dalai Lama wants to sour Beijing Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao accused supporters of the Dalai Lama on Tuesday of organizing violent clashes in Tibet in hopes of sabotaging the Beijing Olympics and bolstering their campaign for independence in the Himalayan territory.

The Dalai Lama urged his followers to remain peaceful, saying he would resign as head of the Tibetan government-in-exile if violence got out of control. But he also suggested China may have fomented unrest in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and nearby provinces to discredit him.

In striking an uncompromising line, Wen underscored the communist leadership's determination to restore order in Tibet and Tibetan areas of neighboring provinces.

"There is ample fact - and we also have plenty of evidence—proving that this incident was organized, premeditated, masterminded and incited by the Dalai clique," he told reporters at his annual news conference at the end of China's national legislative session.

"By staging that incident, they want to undermine the

Beijing Olympic Games, and they also try to serve their hidden agenda by inciting such incidents," said Wen.

He said Lhasa was returning to normal and "will be re-opened to the rest of the world," but did not specify when.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday that 105 people had turned themselves into police in Lhasa after the violent anti-government protests there last week. The communist government on Sunday had promised leniency for those who handed themselves in, and harsh punishment for those who did not.

Xinhua quoted a government official as saying the people who gave themselves up had been "directly involved in the beating, smashing, looting and arson last Friday."

"Some have turned in the money they looted," Baema Chilai, vice chairman of the regional government, was quoted as saying.

Independent reporting from the region was impossible because of China's tight control over information and a ban on trips to the area by foreign reporters.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Insurers settle lawsuits over RP crash for \$165M

DALLAS (AP)—Insurance companies have agreed to pay \$165 million to settle lawsuits brought by relatives of those killed in a 2000 plane crash in the Philippines, lawyers for the families said. The families of about 100 of the 131 people killed in the crash sued the American companies that owned the plane and leased it to Air Philippines, accusing them of providing a worn-out plane in need of constant maintenance that the airline was incapable or unwilling to do. The case, filed in state court in Chicago, was scheduled for trial in September but was settled in late February by Air Philippines' insurers, who negotiated on behalf of the plane's suppliers. Neither the American companies, Air Philippines nor the insurers admitted responsibility. Nolan said after legal fees of about one-third the award, families will get on average more than \$1 million each.

RP blast hurts 16 in alleged gang war

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A suspected grenade blast wounded at least 16 people near the Philippine presidential palace Tuesday in what police believed was a gang-related incident. Investigators recovered an unexploded home-made grenade and grenade pin at the scene, a police officer at the site said. Presidential security guards rushed to the scene of the blast about a block from the gates of Malacanang Palace. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was in northern Baguio city when the explosion took place. Asked whether the palace could have been the target, presidential guard commander

Brig. Gen. Romeo Prestoza told reporters in Baguio: "Of course not. We are treating this as a police matter."

5 arrested in Indian blood racket

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Five people have been arrested for keeping 15 poor people in captivity and selling their blood to private clinics in northern India to make money, police said Tuesday. The victims, who were freed in a raid Sunday, were lured with promises of good jobs and forcibly kept in a home in Gorakhpur, a town about 155 miles southeast of Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh state, said police Inspector-General D.K. Chaudhary. The five were charged with illegal confinement of people and attempt to murder, Chaudhary said. If convicted, they could be jailed for up to 14 years. Police failed to arrest the alleged kingpin of the racket during Sunday's raid, he said.

Pakistan: Bomb hits Afghan-bound truck

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's state news agency says a roadside bomb has struck an oil tanker carrying fuel for U.S.-led coalition forces in neighboring Afghanistan. No one was hurt. The Associated Press of Pakistan says the truck "burst into flames" after the explosion Tuesday near Peshawar, a city near the Afghan border. The tanker carrying 11,624 gallons of fuel was destroyed. The report did not say who may have been involved. But authorities have blamed Islamic militants for similar attacks in the past.

Victims, RP govt battle over Marcos money

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court expressed sympathy on Monday for Filipino victims of the Ferdinand Marcos regime while raising the possibility it may have no choice but to rule against them in a dispute over who owns \$35 million (€22.2 million) that once belonged to the late dictator.

A lawyer for a group of more than 9,500 human rights victims from the Philippines and their heirs argued they should get the money as part of a \$2 billion (€1.3 billion) judgment in U.S. courts against the estate of Ferdinand Marcos. The dictator, who died in 1989 in Hawaii, allegedly stole vast amounts of money from his own government before his

overthrow in 1986, when the United States flew him to exile in Hawaii.

The Philippine government says the dispute over the tiny fraction of allegedly stolen assets should be settled in Philippine courts, not in the United States, where it has been pending for eight years.

"Is it fair to say" to the victims, "Wait for a ruling in the Philippines?" asked Chief Justice John Roberts.

The victims, all opponents of Marcos' rule, were tortured or executed during the imposition of his martial law rule in the Philippines from 1972 to 1986.

The fight stems from Marcos's transfer of \$2 million (€1.3 million) in 1972 to Arel-

ma S.A., a Panamanian shell corporation that invested the money with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., in New York. By 2000, it had grown to \$35 million (€22.19 million). A Philippine bank is holding Arelma share certificates in escrow until the courts there rule on ownership.

When Merrill Lynch asked U.S. courts to sort out the disagreement, the Philippine government invoked sovereign immunity, the doctrine that bars a legal proceeding against a government without its consent.

Ordinarily, that would have shut down the case in U.S. courts, based on the absent Philippine government being an indispensable party to the case.

UN envoy disappointed with Myanmar trip

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. envoy to Myanmar expressed disappointment Tuesday that his latest visit to the military-ruled Southeast Asian nation did not produce "any immediate tangible outcome."

Ibrahim Gambari was rebuffed when he suggested that the military junta amend its "roadmap to democracy" to include input from the country's pro-democracy movement and other political parties.

The junta also rejected a U.N.

role in its referendum in May on a new constitution, which is to be followed by a general election in 2010, key steps in the seven-point roadmap.

Gambari told the U.N. Security Council that his five-day visit did provide an opportunity to prod the government to engage the opposition to move forward toward "a peaceful, prosperous, democratic Myanmar with full respect for the human rights of its people."

But during Gambari's visit, which ended on March 10, the

junta again rebuffed his efforts to meet with its chairman, Senior Gen. Than Shwe - just as it did during his last visit in November. The U.N. had described a meeting with Than Shwe as one of the main goals of his visit.

While Gambari met twice with detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the military rulers turned down U.N. suggestions that they free political prisoners including Suu Kyi and accelerate a dialogue with her to foster political reconciliation.

World

Mortar shells hit school near US Embassy

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—Three mortar rounds targeting the U.S. Embassy crashed into a high school for girls next door Tuesday, killing a Yemeni security guard and wounding more than a dozen girls, officials said.

The State Department said U.S. Embassy officials in Yemen had concluded that the attack was "directed against our

embassy." U.S. officials refused to comment further, saying it was still under investigation.

The embassy issued a statement in Arabic saying none of its employees was wounded, adding that "we pray for the victims and their families." The embassy closed for the rest of the day.

A statement from the Interior Ministry said the shells fired by un-

identified attackers in the downtown San'a district of Sawan wounded five soldiers and 13 school girls. Three of the girls were described as in serious condition and were being flown to Jordan for treatment.

The statement did not mention the death of the guard, which was reported by a ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not

authorized to talk to the press.

"The ministry will arrest those terrorists as fast as it can and bring them to justice," the ministry statement said.

Troops sealed off roads and prevented journalists from approaching the school, which is attended mostly by Yemeni students.

The U.S. Embassy in Yemen, which is the ancestral homeland

of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, has been the focus of violence before.

In March 2002, a Yemeni man lobbed a sound grenade into the embassy grounds a day after Vice President Dick Cheney made a stop for talks with officials at the San'a airport. The attacker, who allegedly sought to retaliate against what he called

American bias toward Israel, was sentenced to 10 years in prison but the sentence was later reduced to seven years.

In March 2003, two people were fatally shot and dozens more were injured as police clashed with demonstrators trying to storm the embassy when tens of thousands rallied against U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Artifact smuggling aids Iraq insurgents

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—The smuggling of stolen antiquities from Iraq's rich cultural heritage is helping finance Iraqi extremist groups, says the U.S. investigator who led the initial probe into the looting of Baghdad's National Museum.

Marine Reserve Col. Matthew Bogdanos claimed both Sunni insurgents such as al-Qaida in Iraq and Shiite militias are receiving funding from the trafficking.

Bogdanos, a New York assistant district attorney, noted that kidnappings and extortion remain the insurgents' main source of funds. But he said the link between extremist groups and antiquities smuggling in Iraq was "undeniable."

"The Taliban are using opium to finance their activities in Afghanistan," Bogdanos told The Associated Press in an interview during a two-day UNESCO-organized conference that ended Tuesday on returning antiquities to their country of origin.

"Well, they don't have opium in Iraq," he said. "What they have is an almost limitless supply of is antiquities. And so they're using antiquities."

He did not provide details on whether he believes factions in Iraq were actively engaged in smuggling or simply forcing payments from traffickers, whose networks often follow overland routes to Jordan and Syria and then onto cities such as Beirut, Dubai or Geneva.

But such suspicions of insurgent links to antiquity smuggling has drawn mixed opinions in the past from experts.

In 2005, Donny George, then director of Iraq's National Museum, said the sale of looted artifacts was helping insurgent groups buy "weapons and ammunition to use against Iraqi police and American forces."

In raids in 2006, Marines arrested a group of suspected insurgents in underground bunkers where they found weapons, ammunition and uniforms alongside vases, cylinder seals and statuettes that had been stolen from the National Museum.

Antonia Kimbell, an art trade manager at The Art Loss Register—which maintains a database on stolen, missing and looted art—said she had yet to see concrete evidence connecting the trade in illegal antiquities and insurgent financing.



In this June 2003 photo provided by Matthew Bogdanos, U.S. Marine Reserve Col. Bogdanos holds part of the 5,000-year-old sacred Vase of Warka, one of the most valuable artifacts of the Iraqi National Museum that was stolen during looting and later returned.

Lynndie England blames media for photos

BERLIN (AP)—Lynndie England, the public face of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, told a German news magazine that she was sorry for appearing in photographs of detainees in the notorious Iraqi prison, and believes the scenes of torture and humiliation served as a powerful rallying point for anti-American insurgents.

In an interview with the weekly magazine Stern conducted in English and posted on its Web site Tuesday, England was both remorseful and unrepentant -

and conceded that the published photos surely incensed insurgents in Iraq.

"I guess after the picture came out the insurgency picked up and Iraqis attacked the Americans and the British and they attacked in return and they were just killing each other. I felt bad about it ... no, I felt pissed off. If the media hadn't exposed the pictures to that extent, then thousands of lives would have been saved," she was quoted as saying.

Asked how she could blame the media for the controversy,

she said it wasn't her who leaked the photos.

"Yeah, I took the photos but I didn't make it worldwide. Yes, I was in five or six pictures and I took some pictures, and those pictures were shameful and degrading to the Iraqis and to our government," she said, according to the report.

"And I feel sorry and wrong about what I did. But it would not have escalated to what it did all over the world if it wouldn't have been for someone leaking it to the media."

Lloyd's insures winemaker's nose for \$8M

LONDON (AP)—His schnoz is not to be sniffed at.

A Lloyd's of London syndicate said Tuesday it is insuring the nose of winemaker Ilja Gort for \$8 million.

The Dutch winemaker and taster took out the policy after hearing about a man who lost his sense of smell in a car accident.

"I thought it must be a horror to lose your smell," Gort said. "It would mean that you cannot taste wine anymore. Tasting wine is something you do with your nose, not your mouth."

Gort, 47, said his nose is essential for him to produce top quality wines at his Chateau de la Garde vineyard in the Bordeaux region of France.

The custom policy covers Gort for the loss of either his nose or his sense of smell and has some conditions for protecting his nose. Among other things, he is barred from riding a motorcycle or working as a knife thrower's assistant or fire-breather.

And he can't be a boxer. "I may not fight against Mike Tyson," Gort said.

UN accuses Serbs of encouraging violence

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)—

The United Nations accused Serbian officials Tuesday of complicity in the violence in northern Kosovo that left a U.N. policeman from Ukraine dead and dozens of people hurt.

Larry Rossin, the deputy U.N. administrator for Kosovo, told reporters in Pristina that "it is clear to us that the violence ... was orchestrated."

At the very least, Rossin said, Serbia's government failed to use its influence to prevent ethnic Serbs in Kosovo from launching the attacks, which left more than 60 U.N. and NATO forces and 70 Kosovo Serb protesters wounded.

The U.N. pulled out of the Serb-dominated part of Kosovska Mitrovica because of Monday's violence. Additional U.S. troops trained in riot control were sent to reinforce NATO peacekeepers stationed in Kosovo's north, a

NATO official said.

Serbia's "interventions or lack of interventions with those who are causing these problems" are hindering U.N. operations in the Serb-dominated region of Kosovo, Rossin said.

"We've never had what we could consider a clear and unambiguous denunciation of this kind of violence from the ministers or indeed any other Belgrade government official that I can think of," he said.

Rossin called "objectionable" some of the statements made by Serbia's government minister for Kosovo, Slobodan Samardzic, when Samardzic was in Kosovska Mitrovica on Monday.

Samardzic told protesters that "we will protect you just like we protect the Serbs in Serbia" and "we will reach the goal only if we are patient, smart and organized and if we believe in what we want to accomplish."



Boys collect steel from the U.N. burned car in front of the U.N. court compound in the northern Serb-dominated part of the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo, Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

Environment

Can you guess who I am?

My real name is *Chelonia mydas*, but I like to be called Glen. *I am the Green Sea turtle!*

Did you know that the Green Sea turtle is an endangered species in the CNMI?

An Amazing Animal:

The Green Sea turtle is a green turtle with a dark brown shell and a yellowish underside.

Adult and juvenile turtles are vegetarians. The adults can grow up to 4ft (1.2m) long. They can weigh as much as 300 lbs (136 kg), and swim up to 35-mph. Turtles breathe air like you and me. When they are awake they reach the surface of the water every few minutes to take a deep breath. Amazingly, the adults can stay underwater for more than 2 hours when sleeping!

A Turtle's Breeding Grounds:

The turtle's life span is unknown and at 25 years old they are considered mature. Twenty-five years is a long time and this is mainly why the Green Sea turtles have a difficult time recovering



by tires or taken by poachers. Pollutants and litter also harm turtles. They sometimes mistake trash for food and become entangled. Plastics and cigarette butts remain undigested in their stomachs. Trash also clogs the turtle's digestive tract, blocking food passage, which results in starvation.

Turtles Need Your Help:

Fortunately, together we can make the difference between the survival and extinction of the Green Sea turtle. Observe the law. Do not injure or harass turtles! Don't drive on the beach! Pack out what you carry in, remind others to do the same, and pick up trash even if it is not your own!

Report poaching or other suspicious activity to: DFW at 664-6000 or EMO at 322-8002. For more information visit: www.dfw.gov.mp, www.worldwildlife.org, www.earthtrust.org.

Challenge: Will you help save the Green Sea Turtle by Supporting the Micronesia Challenge?

The Micronesia Challenge will help protect "at least 66 threatened species,



from a loss in their population. Once the turtles mature they head back to the shores of their birth called "natal beach" to mate and rest.

A Turtle's Birth:

A pregnant female Green Sea turtle must swim out of the water to the shore to dig her nest and lay her eggs. She lays as many as 100 leathery eggs! After she lays the eggs she covers them with sand to hide them. Then she heads back to the ocean leaving her babies behind to hatch on their own. Green Sea turtles hatch in 25-30 days.

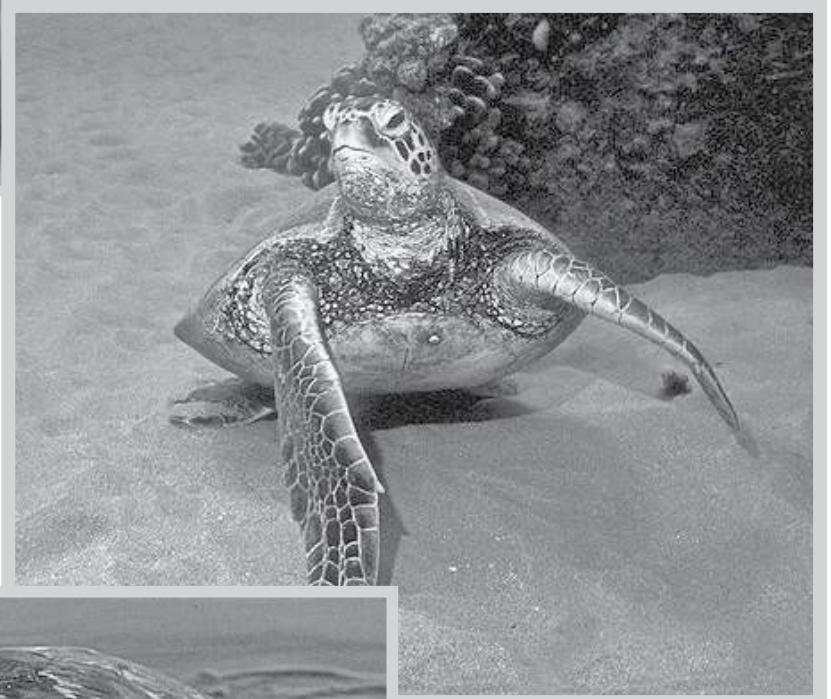
A Turtle's Series of Unfortunate Events:

Once these baby turtles hatch they have to go through a series of obstacles before reaching the ocean to find some food. Hatchlings crawl through the dark towards the brightest horizon, but sometimes the light from nearby surrounding can cause them to lose their way. Worst of all many become prey to crabs and other predators. Imagine how many turtles survive these series of unfortunate events. You might think that they are safe when they reach the ocean, but there is more danger to be

encountered such as sharks and other fishes. Consequently, only 1 in about 300 hatchlings survive to their mature stage of life.

A Turtle's Tragedy:

Cars driving on the beach destroy vegetation on the beach and make the sand compact therefore making the nesting process more difficult. Often times during nesting seasons they are crushed



462 coral species, more than 1,300 species of reef fish, 85 species of birds and 1,400 species of plants (200 of which are endemic)."

The Micronesia Challenge, a commitment by the governments of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, US Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of Palau to place at least 30 percent of the near-shore marine and 20 percent of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia under effective conservation by 2020. (CoCo)

CNMI takes rare pride in our environment

CNMI, please meet your new friend, Pride.

"An introduction to pride?" you ask. "How can I be introduced to pride?"

Well this type of pride is a little different from what you think; more rare and special. This pride is the name of an environmental campaign that has begun in the Northern Marianas. Working together with Rare an international conservation organization, our Pride in the Environment



Campaign will focus on the CNMI's coral reefs. Coral reefs are threatened everyday by human impacts such as over-fishing, damage from sewage, chemical spills, sedimentation, boat groundings and anchor damage, improper watershed devel-

opment and global climate change.

Through more than 15 years of working in grassroots conservation education, Rare has developed an inviting social marketing program for community awareness raising: The Pride campaign. Proven successful in more than 30 countries, Pride campaigns build momentum for conservation by inspiring enthusiasm and commitment within individuals and local communities living in the

earth's most ecologically valuable regions...such as the CNMI. Right now, there are similar campaigns going on in the Marshall Islands, Kosrae (FSM), Palau and Guam.

Campaign manager Brooke Nevitt at Coastal Resources Management will work closely with the community to develop the details of the CNMI program. There will be stakeholders' meetings, focus groups, and a questionnaire survey to gather in-

put and determine priorities. This planning process will culminate in the creation of a detailed project plan for a year-long campaign. The success of the campaign will depend on involvement of everyone including you, teachers, students business leaders, and elected officials.

If you have questions about getting involved, or would like more information please call Brooke Nevitt at Coastal Resources Management, 664-8322 or pridecnmi@gmail.com. You may also visit the Rare website at <http://www.rareconservation.org/>. (CoCo)

Life & Style

Writer Arthur C. Clarke dies at 90

By RAVI NESSMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Arthur C. Clarke, a visionary science fiction writer who wrote “2001: A Space Odyssey” and won worldwide acclaim with more than 100 books on space, science and the future, died Wednesday, an aide said. He was 90.

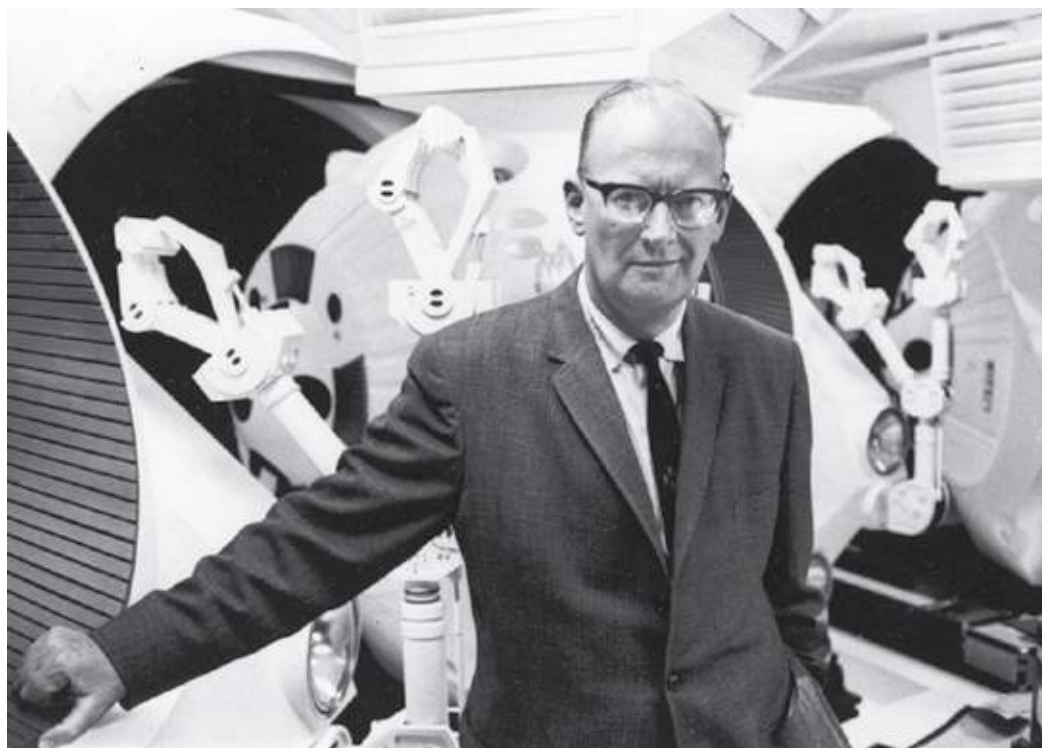
Clarke, who had battled debilitating post-polio syndrome for years, died at 1:30 a.m. in his adopted home of Sri Lanka after suffering breathing problems, aide Rohan De Silva said.

The 1968 story “2001: A Space Odyssey”—written simultaneously as a novel and screenplay with director Stanley Kubrick—was a frightening prophesy of artificial intelligence run amok.

One year after it made Clarke a household name in fiction, the scientist entered the homes of millions of Americans alongside Walter Cronkite anchoring television coverage of the Apollo mission to the moon.

Clarke also was credited with the concept of communications satellites in 1945, decades before they became a reality. Geosynchronous orbits, which keep satellites in a fixed position relative to the ground, are called Clarke orbits.

His non-fiction volumes on space travel and his explorations of the Great Barrier Reef and Indian Ocean earned him respect in the world of science, and in 1976 he became an hon-



Science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke poses in this undated photo released in the late 1960s. Clarke, the author of more than 100 books, including “2001: A Space Odyssey”, died early Wednesday, March 19, 2008 after suffering from breathing problems. He was 90.

orary fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

But it was his writing that shot him to his greatest fame and that gave him the greatest fulfillment.

“Sometimes I am asked how I would like to be remembered,” Clarke said recently. “I have had a diverse career as a writer, underwater explorer and space promoter. Of all these, I would like to be remembered as a writer.”

From 1950, he began a prolific output of both fiction and non-fiction, sometimes pub-

lishing three books in a year. He published his best-selling “3001: The Final Odyssey” when he was 79.

A statement from Clarke’s office said that Clarke had recently reviewed the final manuscript of his latest novel. “The Last Theorem,” co-written with Frederik Pohl, will be published later this year, the statement said.

Some of his best-known books are “Childhood’s End,” 1953; “The City and The Stars,” 1956; “The Nine Billion Names of God,” 1967; “Rendezvous with Rama,” 1973; “Imperial

Earth,” 1975; and “The Songs of Distant Earth,” 1986.

When Clarke and Kubrick got together to develop a movie about space, they used as basic ideas several of Clarke’s shorter pieces, including “The Sentinel,” written in 1948, and “Encounter in the Dawn.” As work progressed on the screenplay, Clarke also wrote a novel of the story. He followed it up with “2010,” “2061,” and “3001: The Final Odyssey.”

In 1989, two decades after the Apollo 11 moon landings, Clarke wrote: “2001 was writ-

ten in an age which now lies beyond one of the great divides in human history; we are sundered from it forever by the moment when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped out on to the Sea of Tranquility. Now history and fiction have become inexorably intertwined.”

Planetary scientist Torrence Johnson said Clarke was a major influence on many in the field.

Johnson, who has been exploring the solar system through the Voyager, Galileo and Cassini missions in his 35 years at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, recalled a meeting of planetary scientists and rocket engineers, where talk turned to the author.

“All of us around the table said we read Arthur C. Clarke,” Johnson said. “That was the thing that got us there.”

Clarke won the Nebula Award of the Science Fiction Writers of America in 1972, 1974 and 1979; the Hugo Award of the World Science Fiction Convention in 1974 and 1980, and in 1986 became Grand Master of the Science Fiction Writers of America. He was awarded the CBE in 1989.

Born in Minehead, western England, on Dec. 16, 1917, the son of a farmer, Arthur Charles Clark became addicted to science fiction after buying his first copies of the pulp magazine “Amazing Stories” at Woolworth’s. He read English writers H.G. Wells and Olaf Stapledon and began writing for his school magazine in his teens.

Clarke went to work as a clerk in Her Majesty’s Exchequer and Audit Department in London, where he joined the British Interplanetary Society and wrote his first short stories and scientific articles on space travel.

It was not until after the World War II that Clarke received a bachelor of science degree in physics and mathematics from King’s College in London.

In the wartime Royal Air Force, he was put in charge of a new radar blind-landing system.

But it was an RAF memo he wrote in 1945 about the future of communications that led him to fame. It was about the possibility of using satellites to revolutionize communications - an idea whose time had decidedly not come.

Clarke later sent it to a publication called Wireless World, which almost rejected it as too far-fetched.

Clarke married in 1953, and was divorced in 1964. He had no children.

He moved to the Indian Ocean island of Sri Lanka in 1956 after embarking on a study of the Great Barrier Reef.

Clarke, who had battled debilitating post-polio syndrome since the 1960s and sometimes used a wheelchair, discovered that scuba-diving approximated the feeling of weightlessness that astronauts experience in space. He remained a diving enthusiast, running his own scuba venture into old age.

“I’m perfectly operational underwater,” he once said.

Judge says Mills twisted the truth

LONDON (AP)—A judge’s ruling in the bitter Paul McCartney-Heather Mills divorce case shed new light Tuesday on a miserable marriage, saying Mills twisted the truth when convenient and made “exorbitant” financial demands.

“To some extent she is her own worst enemy,” wrote Judge Hugh Bennett. “She has an explosive and volatile character.”

Mills, who lost part of her leg when she was hit by a motorcycle, cast McCartney as an abusive, alcoholic husband who cruelly made fun of her disability. But the judge made clear the angry assertions rang hollow.

In a devastating indictment, Bennett called Mills’ testimony “not just inconsistent and inaccurate, but also less than candid. Overall she was a less than impressive witness.”

By contrast, the judge praised McCartney, 65, for “consistent, accurate and honest” testimony in the ruling, made public after he rejected Mills’ attempt to block its release.

Calling Mills’ demand of \$250 million from McCartney

“exorbitant” in light of their four-year marriage, the judge said her claims may have been inflated because of her estranged husband’s stature.

“The wife ... must have felt rather swept off her feet by a man as famous as the husband,” he wrote. “I think this may well have warped her perception, leading her to indulge in make-believe. The objective facts do not support her case.”

He said Mills, 40, had “unreasonably” expected that she would be able to live the deluxe McCartney lifestyle for the rest of her life even after she divorced the pop star.

“Although she strongly denied it, her case boils down to the syndrome of ‘me too’ or ‘if he has it, I want it, too,’” he wrote in awarding Mills \$48.6 million.

Mills maintained she needed \$6.4 million a year for herself and her daughter, Beatrice, as well as multi-million dollar properties in London and New York, and money for an office in Brighton, on England’s south coast.

Instead, the judge said Mills could get by on \$1.2 million a

year and one property, worth \$5 million, in London.

The former model also sought millions of dollars in lost income, asserting McCartney had forced her to turn down numerous lucrative business opportunities. But Bennett rejected the claim, saying the former Beatle used his considerable prestige to actively promote his wife’s career, not quash it.

Mills claimed, for example, that McCartney made her turn down a \$2 million offer to model bras for Marks & Spencer, the British retail chain. But the judge said there was no evidence to support the claim, which McCartney denied.

McCartney said the couple jointly decided it was not a good idea for Mills to model lingerie while they were having a relationship.

Bennett also said Mills greatly hurt her market value and potential earnings by attacking McCartney during two televised interviews last fall. “To some extent she is her own worst enemy,” he wrote. “She has an explosive and volatile character.”

“She cannot have done herself any good in the eyes of potential purchasers of her services as a TV presenter, public speaker and a model, by her outbursts in her TV interviews,” he wrote.

The judge did not, however, punish Mills for reportedly dumping a glass of water on McCartney’s lawyer, Fiona Shackleton, in the final hours of the hearing Monday. Shackleton, who represented Prince Charles in his divorce from Princess Diana, emerged with wet hair from the hearing, and Mills joked she had been “baptized” in court.

Still, the ruling gave a sympathetic description of Mills’ childhood, describing how she left home when she was 15 and supported herself with various jobs, beginning work as a model at 17 and soon finding jobs as a television anchor.

The judge also recounted how McCartney, still grieving the loss of his first wife Linda, wore the wedding ring she gave him throughout the early years of his romance with Mills and only removed it when he married Mills.



Heather Mills leaves central London’s Royal Courts of Justice, following the announcement of the judgment of her divorce with Paul McCartney, Monday March 17, 2008.

Van Dyke sings 'Supercali ...' etc.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dick Van Dyke may be 82, but he can still get 14 syllables into a single word. Van Dyke sang "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" on Monday night at the Geffen Playhouse during a tribute to actress Annette Bening and studio chief Robert A. Iger. The ceremony honored their efforts to support the arts—live theater in particular.

Van Dyke even recreated a bit of the choreography from "Mary Poppins" with the current Broadway stars of "Poppins" and "Mermaid," Ashley Brown and Sierra Boggess.

"The secret to keeping moving," Van Dyke said, "is keeping moving."

Not coincidentally, Julie Andrews served as co-chair of the tribute with Van Dyke, marking a "Poppins"—movie reunion on the arrivals line.

"It's one of those friendships where we do see each other, occasionally," said Andrews, 72. "Not as much as I like, but it's as if we never said goodbye, and we never did say goodbye."

While the spotlight was on three-time Oscar nominee Bening and Iger, president and CEO of The Walt Disney Company, the stage loomed larger than both of them - and it's clear that's just as the two preferred.

The star of such movies as "American Beauty" and the upcoming "The Women," Bening, 49, told AP Television, "The non-profit theater is where I started. It's where I saw my first play. I don't know how many people out there were taken to the theater for the first time by their English teacher or their drama teacher, but that's where I went, which is The Old Globe in San Diego. ... So, for me, it's where I started, and I feel so grateful."

Spitzer call girl already gone 'Wild'

By SOLVEJ SCHOU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stop that \$1 million check: It turns out the call girl linked to Eliot Spitzer had already shed her clothes for "Girls Gone Wild" as an 18-year-old while partying in Miami, the video company's founder said Tuesday.

Joe Francis had reached out to Ashley Alexandra Dupre, now 22, with an offer of \$1 million to appear in a non-nude spread for his company's new magazine, plus a chance to join the "Girls Gone Wild" tour bus, his company announced Tuesday.

But Francis said someone had a revelation at the Tuesday morning staff meeting: Did anyone think to check the archives?

They did, he said—and there she was.

"It'll save me a million bucks," Francis told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "It's kind of like finding a winning

lottery ticket in the cushions of your couch."

Francis said at that point, his offer was off the table: "We actually had been dealing with her rep," he said. "Our (offer) was the real deal. We just never made the connection."

He said his employees got to work on pulling the footage and planned to offer it on the Web site by Tuesday evening, with a free sampling on the front page and the rest available with a \$29.95 monthly subscription.

Dupre's attorney Don D. Buchwald declined comment.

According to a "Girls Gone Wild" press release, Dupre visited Miami in 2003 to celebrate her 18th birthday. After fighting with a friend and getting thrown out of her hotel, Dupre found a

nearby "Girls Gone Wild" bus, the company said.

She signed legal papers and spent a full week on the bus, filming seven full-length tapes which included nudity and same-sex encounters, according to the company.

"I personally ended up buying her a Greyhound bus ticket back home to North Carolina," Francis told the AP.

Francis returned to California last week after being sentenced to time served and fines in Florida in a case involving filming underage girls. He still faces trial on federal tax evasion charges that carry a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

Dupre's public profile has skyrocketed since former New York Gov. Spitzer resigned earlier this

week amid the prostitution scandal. He was accused of spending tens of thousands of dollars on prostitutes, including a February tryst with a call girl named "Kristen," since identified as Dupre.

Dupre's MySpace page was hit more than 5 million times in the days immediately after the scandal broke. Her musical efforts, including two songs posted at the music sharing site Aime Street, were listened to hundreds of thousands of times and played on national airwaves.

Hustler publisher Larry Flynt told The AP last Friday that he e-mailed Dupre offering her \$1 million to appear nude in his magazine, but didn't sound optimistic that she would settle for that amount. Flynt suggested that by the time Dupre starts talking, she may be too big a media phenomenon for a simple magazine spread.



Francis

Director Anthony Minghella dies at 54

LONDON (AP)—Anthony Minghella, a screenwriter, opera director and the Oscar-winning filmmaker of "The English Patient," died of a hemorrhage Tuesday at age 54. Minghella's death came five days before the British TV premiere of his final film, "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency."

Spokesman Jonathan Rutter said Minghella died early Tuesday at London's Charing Cross Hospital. Rutter said Minghella underwent surgery last week for a growth in his neck. He said the operation "seemed to have gone well. At 5 a.m. today he had a fatal hemorrhage."

Britain's arts community reacted with shock to the loss of one of its best-known and best-liked figures. Tributes poured in from people as diverse as movie star Jude Law, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the president of Botswana.

Law, who appeared in three of Minghella's films, said he was "deeply shocked and saddened."

"He was a sweet, warm, bright and funny man who was interested in everything from football to opera, films, music, literature, people and most of all his family whom he adored and to whom I send my thoughts and love," said Law, who appeared in Minghella's films "The Talented Mr. Ripley," "Cold Mountain" and "Breaking and Entering." "I shall miss him hugely."

Blair, who became friends with Minghella after the filmmaker directed a Labour Party election commercial in 2005, said Minghella was "a wonderful human being, creative and brilliant, but still humble, gentle and a joy to be with."

"Whatever I did with him, personally or professionally, left me with complete admiration for him, as a character and as an artist of the highest caliber," Blair said.



AP

British film director Anthony Minghella holds his Achievement in Directing Oscar at the 69th annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles Monday, in this March 24, 1997 file photo. Minghella won for "The English Patient."

Busey apologizes for red carpet blunder

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gary Busey has apologized for embracing Jennifer Garner on the red carpet at the Oscars last month. During a live E! pre-show broadcast, Busey repeatedly interrupted while Ryan Seacrest was interviewing Garner and Laura Linney. At one point, Busey embraced Garner, who looked annoyed.

"I meant no disrespect to Ms. Jennifer Garner when I met her at the Oscars and apologize if I made her uncomfortable," the 63-year-old actor said in a statement e-mailed Monday by a publicist for his attorney, Vicki Roberts.

By the time he realized Gar-

ner and Linney were being interviewed, Busey said he tried to step back but "suddenly Ryan introduced her to me."

Calls to Garner's publicist, Leslie Sloane-Zelnik, weren't immediately returned.

"I simply greeted both actresses with joy and open arms, which is the way I would greet anyone I'm happy to meet," Busey said. "Everyone has experienced a handshake or hug which has turned awkward, and this was no different."

Busey, an Oscar nominee for his role in 1978's "The Buddy Holly Story," has parodied his eccentric reputation on the HBO comedy "Entourage."

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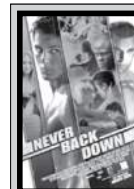
Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sat & Sun 1:15 4:20 7:05 9:35
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05 9:35

Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
Family, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

An imaginative elephant named Horton hears a faint cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. Although Horton doesn't know it yet, that speck houses an entire city named Who-ville, inhabited by the microscopic Whos, led by the Mayor. Despite being ridiculed and threatened by his neighbors, who think he has lost his mind, Horton is determined to save the particle—because "a person's a person, no matter how small!"



Never Back Down

Friday 4:25 7:05 9:35
Sat & Sun 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:55
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30 9:55

Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
Action, Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis

Jake Tyler has recently moved to Orlando, Florida with his family to support his younger brother's shot at a professional tennis career. Jake was a star athlete on the football team at home, but in this new city he is an outsider with a reputation for being a quick tempered brawler. Making an attempt to fit in, at the invitation of a flirtatious classmate, Baja, Jake goes to a party where he is unwittingly pulled into a fight with a bully named Ryan McDonald.



10,000 BC

Friday 4:30 7:10 9:50
Sat & Sun 1:30 4:30 7:10 9:50
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10 9:50

Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Synopsis

In a remote mountain tribe, the young hunter D'Leh has found his heart's passion—the beautiful Evolet. But when a band of mysterious warlords raid his village and kidnap Evolet, D'Leh leads a small group of hunters to pursue the warlords to the end of the world to save her. As they venture into unknown lands for the first time, the group discovers there are civilizations beyond their own and that mankind's reach is far greater than they ever knew.



Rambo

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
Sat & Sun 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15 10:00

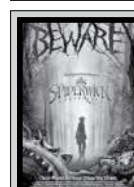
Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz
Action, Adventure • Rated R



Vantage Point

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sat & Sun 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00 9:45

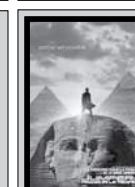
Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG13



The Spiderwick Chronicles

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
Sat & Sun 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20 9:30

Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13



Jumper

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sat & Sun 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25 9:40

Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
Adventure, Sci-Fi • Rated PG13

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Wife misses ex's friendship after years of breaking up

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband and I have remained friends and lovers for the past 37 years. We maintained a relationship that included shared vacations and socializing together. We even talked of living in a retirement home together one day.

Three months ago, he stopped communicating with me. A month later, he sent me a greeting card telling me to "remember our good times always."

My heart has not mended. I cry continuously. I have not contacted him, but I know I deserve more than this because of the nature of our relationship. Abby, how do I handle these emotions, my future, and the social and family events that will be coming up?

GRIEVING IN DAYTON, OHIO

DEAR GRIEVING: Under the circumstances, your feelings—and your tears—are normal. You are grieving for your lost husband. This is a process you should have gone through 37 years ago, when the marriage ended. But because you continued behaving as husband and wife, the strings remained tied.

It would be healthier for you if you had some closure. By that I mean if he had explained why he was ceasing communication. After all this time you deserve some answers—even if they're painful to hear.

You may need professional counseling to handle your emotions. As to the social and family events that are scheduled, ask a friend to accompany you. Your future will take care of itself.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am in my 40s, single, and have bought a house. There is no man in my future. My parents helped me by giving me the down payment. They expect me to pay them back plus interest.

My parents paid for both my sisters' weddings and also helped with the expense for my brother's wedding. Since they didn't have to pay for a wedding for me, I think the down payment should be considered "wedding money," and I should not be required to pay it back. What is your opinion?

JILTED DOWN SOUTH

DEAR JILTED: What bothers me about your letter is the sense of entitlement it conveys. I assume that at the time your parents loaned you the money, you agreed to the terms. If that's the case, then you should abide by them. You are fortunate your parents were willing (and able) to help you. Residential loans are not easy to get right now.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I always find the letters you print about "pennies from heaven" intriguing. I lost a dear friend to a serious illness a few years ago. I was at work the day after her death, and we were having a severe, unseasonable thunderstorm. I had to wait until it was over to get to my car.

As I approached my car, I noticed a shiny penny—not on the ground, but on the back of my windshield! The hairs on the back of my neck stood up. I immediately thought of my friend Lisa. She must have known that I had been berating myself for not having been there for her while she was at her sickest point. In my heart, I feel that the penny was Lisa's way of telling me she forgave me for not being a better friend.

WISH I HAD A SECOND CHANCE

DEAR WISH: Regret is the cancer of life. Rather than looking backward, resolve to do better in the future. We find forgiveness where we look for it—and if finding the penny was a comfort to you, then it has served its purpose.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Bench warrant issued for Shia LaBeouf



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shia LaBeouf could pay a hefty price for smoking. A \$1,000 bench warrant was issued for the 21-year-old actor after he failed to appear in court Tuesday on an unlawful smoking charge.

The "Transformers" star was cited last month. He was scheduled to appear in a Los Angeles County courthouse Tuesday on the misdemeanor offense, but neither he nor his lawyer showed up, according to court documents filed Tuesday. The document did not contain details on the circumstances or location of the offense.

A message left with LaBeouf's publicist was not immediately returned.

LaBeouf starred on the Disney Channel show "Even Stevens" and can next be seen on the big screen opposite Harrison Ford in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

Actor Shia LaBeouf poses on the press line at the Los Angeles premiere of "Transformers" in this June 27, 2007 file photo in Los Angeles.

AP

Busta Rhymes gets 3 years' probation

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge sentenced Busta Rhymes to three years' probation Tuesday for assaulting his former driver and a fan, and warned the rapper to stay out of trouble.

The 35-year-old Rhymes, whose real name is Trevor Smith, was also ordered to perform 10 days of community service; pay a \$1,250 fine, plus court costs; and enroll in a drunken driving program.

After the sentencing, Rhymes said the terms of the plea deal won't be a problem.

"I have no trouble being a good dude because that's what I am," he said.

Scott Leemon, Rhymes' lawyer, said a private agency called Rock Corp. will work out the community service program. He said he doesn't know yet what it will be. He also said Rhymes has paid most of the fines and surcharges he owed.

Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Larry Stephen put Rhymes on notice that he must abide by the conditions of his probation.

"If you mess up, you're going to jail," he said. "I've given you a chance."

Rhymes said after the sentencing, "I couldn't feel better, and this couldn't have happened at a better time. I thank the judge for giving me a chance and I thank everybody for being supportive."

The rapper said he wanted to get back to "having fun, making music, running around and showing love."

Rhymes pleaded guilty in January on the day he was set to go to trial on the assault and driving offenses related to four separate incidents.

At that time, Stephen revoked Rhymes' driver's license for six months and signed an order of protection directing him to stay away from his former driver.

Known for eye-catching outfits and an antic performance style, Rhymes was dressed at his court appearance in a conservative gray suit and lavender pocket square, a lavender shirt, and a gray-and-lavender floral patterned tie.

His hits include "Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Could See," "Dangerous" and "Touch It." He also has appeared in movies, including "Shaft" and "Finding Forrester."



Rhymes

Berry names daughter Nahla Ariela Aubry

NEW YORK (AP)—Halle Berry's newborn daughter is named Nahla Ariela Aubry, her publicist Meredith O'Sullivan told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Nahla was born Sunday to Berry, 41, and her beau, model Gabriel Aubry, 32. It's Berry's first child.

The couple met while shooting a Versace commercial in Los Angeles two years ago. Berry has said she and Aubry don't plan to marry, but feel fully committed to each other.

Berry, whose credits include "Catwoman," the Bond film "Die Another Day" and the "X-Men" movies, has won an Emmy for the 1999 made-for-TV film "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge" and a best-actress Academy Award for 2001's "Monster's Ball."

Actress Halle Berry poses on the occasion of the screening of the movie "Things we lost in the fire", at the Rome film festival, in this Oct. 26, 2007, file photo.

AP



Spears' friend objects to commissioner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' friend Osama "Sam" Lutfi has filed papers objecting to the Superior Court commissioner assigned to the pop star's conservatorship case.

Lutfi filed the papers Friday, but was not present for a hearing Monday at which Commissioner Reva Goetz extended a temporary restraining order against him until April 16.

His one-sentence filing said: "Please take notice that Osama 'Sam' Lutfi will not stipulate to the above-referenced case being heard by Reva Goetz,

commissioner presiding, to whom the above-entitled case has been assigned."

The document was signed and indicated Lutfi was representing himself.

Although the document was filed Friday, it did not reach the courtroom in time for Monday's hearing. Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini said Tuesday.

Parachini said Lutfi can appear in court on April 16 to ask for the case to be reassigned to a judge.

Commissioners perform

many of the same duties as judges, but all parties have to agree to a commissioner hearing a case.

Michael Sands, a spokesman for Lutfi, said during the weekend that Lutfi agreed to abide by the terms of the restraining order for another month.

The order directs Lutfi to stay at least 250 yards away from the pop star and her homes.

The order was requested by Spears' mother, Lynne, when Spears was hospitalized on a psychiatric hold at UCLA Medical Center.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Four qts.
4 Metal refuse
8 Spud's buds
12 Discoverer's cry
13 "Oh, where, oh, where can —?"
14 Lummox
15 Holiday
17 Taj Mahal city
18 "The Greatest"
19 Speech
21 Spot
24 Inventor Whitney
25 9 mm subma-
chine gun
26 DIY buy
28 Couches
32 Family-
biz abbr.
34 Boxer
36 Catalan
kid
37 Annual
visitor
39 Spigot
41 Took
out of
context?

DOWN

1 Head of
st.
2 "Eureka!"
3 Site
4 Comic bit
5 Muumuu
accessory
6 "Peek-
—!"
7 Category
8 Joy
9 Boo Boo's
mentor
10 Modern
coin
11 Ollie's pal
16 Brewery
product
20 Capp and
Capone
21 Works
on the
sound-
track
22 Pound of
verse
23 Piece of
advice
27 Egyptian
boy
king
29 Unhealthy
attach-
ment
30 From
square
one
31 Lays
down the
lawn
33 Depot
35 Whale
group
38 Jackie's
second
hubby
40 Majestic
home
43 Specks
45 Barracks
bed
46 Pindaric
works
47 "Billy
Budd"
captain
48 Plankton
compo-
nent
49 Wine
region of
California
53 Louis —
54 Lennon's
lady
55 Beak

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
		18				19	20			
21	22			23		24				
25			26		27		28	29	30	31
32		33		34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		41	
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52		53			54	55
56				57					58	
59				60						61

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Christy Carlson Romano, 24; Chester Bennington, 32; Holly Hunter, 50; Spike Lee, 51

Happy Birthday: Taking on too much or letting others take advantage of your go-getter attitude will cause difficulties as the year progresses. Set your goals and stick to them, refusing to let others disrupt your plans. It's what you do throughout this year that will bring future rewards. Your numbers are 9, 15, 19, 27, 31, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Hold back the urge to blurt out the way you feel about things today. Let everyone else voice his or her opinions first. If you find yourself becoming anxious or angry, wait and remain calm. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will achieve your goals if you work hard. Open up discussions with knowledgeable people. A new lifestyle, image or way of doing things will make a big impact on those you are trying to impress. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Focus on your work, your hobbies and yourself. Do not take on responsibilities that aren't yours. Put your feelings aside and make a calculated decision regarding who should come first in your life. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will realize what you need to do to feel happy and content if you take a look at your past. If you take control and make some alterations to your home, lifestyle and the way you deal with others, it won't be long before you feel at ease. *****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	1						8	
				2				
		8	9		5	3		
		2	5		9	1		
	4			1			3	
		9	3		4	8		
		7	1		6	9		
				4				
2								1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/20

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let anyone meddle in your affairs. Rumors and gossip will lead to relationship problems. Don't use brute force to try to get someone to join you or do something for you. Use reverse psychology. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more you talk, the more you'll accomplish. Love is on the rise, allowing you to meet someone new or get up-close and personal with someone you are currently with. A great idea will lead to changes at home. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will take what's being said the wrong way. Back up and listen to someone who has always been in your corner. You may have to do things a little differently to get what you want. Anger does not become you, so don't go there. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stop procrastinating—if you move forward now, you can clear up any problems with positive results. It's time to show everyone who's the boss and how good you are at handling whatever comes your way. You'll make an impression. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may think you are in control but, if you look around, you will see that someone else is pulling the strings. You have to stay on top of what everyone else is doing if you want to be leader. A power play involving money may cause some stress. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do whatever needs to be done to secure your

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	9	3	2	6	1	5	4
6	2	4	7	1	5	8	9	3
1	5	3	4	8	9	7	2	6
5	4	8	9	6	7	2	3	1
3	7	2	5	4	1	9	6	8
9	1	6	8	3	2	5	4	7
4	9	7	6	5	8	3	1	2
8	6	1	2	9	3	4	7	5
2	3	5	1	7	4	6	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/19

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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position. Legal contracts can be drawn up that will satisfy your needs. You can advance because of your expertise, savvy business bravado and your ability to raise funds. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Helping others will bring out the best in you. A partnership that can offer you future benefits is in the stars. Don't be afraid to tackle something new. You are a fast learner and everyone will help you along the way. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can turn today into a very passionate encounter if you put time aside to spend with someone special. You can make positive and progressive changes at home that will please everyone. Put your emotions upfront and be honest. ***

Birthday Baby: You are progressive, determined and a little bit stubborn. You are sensitive, like things your way and are smart enough to know when you must compromise. You are a competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WARNINGS! Solution: 7 letters

N P I S U O I R E S M A R K S
L O B M Y S E R A L F W E I V
U T I U M S H C T A W T G E L
F E I T L E T C S B J N N D I
E N N A L D E O O A U A I G
R T J E D D E I M L U L D U H
A I U M S I N T A G O N A G T
C A R E S I C E I T S R D R E
I L Y C S T V A M N E I N M
C N O N L E A D T M R R U D
S L F U R R N T A E A L E E
D W S O A E R S C H W C L T N
I E E N R E F T E R A W E B O
R O O N L M R E Z Z U B B R T
N S H A Z A R D R E P O R T E

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Advise, Alarm, Alert, Announcement, Bell, Beware, Bulletin, Buzzer, Careful, Color, Danger, Denote, Direct, Flare, Global, Guide, Hazard, Hint, Horn, Immediate, Indicate, Inform, Injury, Judge, Light, Mark, News, Potential, Recommendation, Refer, Report, Result, Scold, Sense, Serious, Signal, Siren, Sonar, Sound, Symbol, System, View, Warn, Watch

Yesterday's Answer: Physique

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 psh for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (TTH 0039)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: ABA Corporation @322-4447.

Commercial Space & Room for Rent

- 4000 sq.ft. commercial space, good for warehouse (previously rented to Ming Li wholesale), work-shop, office, day-care, etc. Back of Triple J Auto on Beach Road in Chalan Laukau.
 - Room from \$60-\$140 monthly, Back of Triple J Auto on Beach Road in Chalan Laukau.
- Contact Ivan @ 285-9966, 235-0479
email:ivanhome_6@hotmail.com

Need Properties.
We are looking for properties, house, building, apartment, etc. Interested owners please see Rayanne @ Yuta Office, Afetna Bldg., San Antonio beside Bank of Guam. Please come personally. No phone calls.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 BAKER HELPER (TTH 0040)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employee provided food; allowance of \$80.00/monthly; workmen's compensation & medical. K's Company Limited dba Wow Pao Pastries @233-7266.

1 PASTRY BAKER (TTH 0041)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: \$80.00/monthly allowance. Contact: K's Company Limited @233-7266.

WANTED AVON REPRESENTATIVE
Earn easy additional income 30% to 50% commission. Please call Jojo Faler at 323-4455 or 483-1971

Wanted: 20 Security Guards
US Citizen. High School Graduate or Equivalent
Salary: Above Minimum Wage
Contact: **GTS Security @ 234-8803/04**

1 BEAUTICIAN (TTH 0042)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical per CNMI Law & workmen's compensation. Contact: Rosa I. Ichihara dba LKR Rosa de Salon @235-7850.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (TTH 0043)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Janvier Corporation dba Janvier Tailoring @285-9500.

2 COOK (THS 0031)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation. Contact: Bobbie's Café @235-2624.

1 KITCHEN HELPER (THS 0032)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee self arranged housing; employer provided food; the employee is provided with workmen's compensation insurance & medical expenses are reimbursable. Contact: Yolanda O. Alfante dba Kuliit's Enterprises @234-2412 or 235-1105.

1 COOK (THS 0033)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee self arranged housing;

WHATZIT Solution:
Nothing out of the ordinary

employer provided food; the employee is provided with workmen's compensation insurance & medical expenses are reimbursable. Contact: Yolanda O. Alfante dba Kuliit's Enterprises @234-2412 or 235-1105.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (THS 0034)

Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical. Contact: Universal Developers @322-5881.

1 HOUSEWORKER (THS 0035)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Gary Cabrera & Jing Cabrera @234-1004.

1 GEN. MANAGER (THS 0036)

Salary:\$1,000.00-\$3,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food & workmen's compensation. Contact: Nippon Travel Agency dba Nippon Travel Agency @233-3719.

1 PAINTER (THS 0037)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Luisito Baltazar dba Konstruk Builders @888-4312.

1 FISHERMAN (THS 0038)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Luisito Baltazar dba Konstruk Builders @888-4312.

1 AUTO MECHANIC (THS 0039)

Salary:\$4.25/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Venture Transportation CNMI dba Budget Car Rental @234-3347.

1 INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (THS 0040)

Salary:\$3.55-\$7.00/hour. Benefits: \$175.00/monthly housing benefit; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation coverage. Must pass a periodic drug test. Able to lift 60 lbs. Contact: Fleet Marine, LLC dba Fleet Marine Trading @233-0744.

1 WELDER (THS 0041)

Salary:\$5.00-\$7.00/hour. Benefits: \$175.00/monthly housing benefit; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation coverage. Contact: Fleet Marine, LLC dba Fleet Marine Trading @233-0744.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PSS HEAD START PROGRAM

P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-3751 Fax: (670) 664-3760
www.cnmiheadstart.com

Head Start Policy Council

Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on March 26, 2008 (Wednesday), from 10:30am-2:30pm Conference Room of the Aging Office, Garapan, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Quorum

D. Adoption of Agenda

E. Adoption of Minutes

1. January 11, 2008-Regular Meeting

2. February 29, 2008-Special Meeting

II. Reports

A. Program Director

1. Monthly Report for February 2008

B. Financial Report

1. Monthly Financial Status Report for February 2008

C. Standing Committees

1. Personnel

2. Education Curriculum

3. Executive

4. Finance

5. Public Relations

D. Updates

1. Human Resource Office

2. Program Improvement Projects

III. Old Business

A. Action Items

1. Approval of SY 07-08 Self Assessment

2. Approval of Grant Application for FY 08-09

IV. New Business

V. Executive Session

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Meyers at 664-3751.

Mr. Efrain Atalig
Chairperson

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

O

RDINARY

Find today's solution in this section

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-DLNR/FW-054

OPENING DATE: APRIL 15, 2008
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“TO FABRICATE TEN (10) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FAD) FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, D.V.M.
SECRETARY, DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 PHARMACIST (THS 0042)
Salary:\$5.76-\$6.05/hour. Benefits: Free of charge housing; self provide food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Saipan Employment Agency Svcs Inc. @234-7327.

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE (THS 0043)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: ER provided housing; self provide food; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Saipan Employment Agency Svcs Inc. @234-7327.

1 CASHIER (SUPERVISOR) (THS 0044)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.75/hour. Benefits: \$30.00/monthly deduction housing; medical coverage expense; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 180 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 BARTENDER (SUPERVISOR) (THS 0045)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.75/hour. Benefits:

\$30.00/monthly deduction housing; medical coverage expense; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE) (THS 0046)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; medical coverage expense; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 CONSTRUCTION HELPER (THS 0047)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical payments provided. Contact: Joven A. Mallari dba J.A.M. Construction Co., @287-5916.

1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (THS 0048)
Salary:\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Employers provided workers com-

pensation & medical expenses. Contact: Servino & Associates Inc. dba Advanced Engineering Consult Co., @235-5073.

1 INTERNAL AUDITOR (THS 0049)
Salary:\$900.00-\$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: Dynamic Core Group, Inc. dba Shirley's Coffee Shop @235-5379/80.

6 COOK (THS 0050)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: Dynamic Core Group, Inc. dba Shirley's Coffee Shop @235-5379/80.

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Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Luana Inc. @233-2434.

1 COOK (THS 0052)
Salary:\$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Benefits:

Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Grotto Inc. @287-3303.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (THS 0053)
Salary:\$700.00-\$1,300.00/monthly. Workers compensation & medi-

cal expenses company provided. Contact: Wild Boar of America Inc. @322-5801.



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Celtics snap Rockets' 22-game win streak



HOUSTON (AP)—Kevin Garnett scored 22 points and Paul Pierce added 20 as the Boston Celtics beat the Rockets 94-74 on Tuesday, stopping Houston's remarkable victory run at 22 games.

The Rockets hadn't lost since a 97-89 defeat to Utah on Jan. 27 and put together the NBA's second-longest winning streak. It ended 11 victories shy of the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers, who won 33 in a row.

It was only Houston's second loss in 28 games and its fourth since a 97-93 loss in Boston on Jan. 2, a game Tracy McGrady sat out with a knee injury. The Rockets also lost for the first time in 11 games since Yao Ming went out with a season-ending foot injury on Feb. 26.

Luis Scola scored 15 for Houston, which had a 15-game home streak snapped.

Pistons 136, Nuggets 120

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton scored 24 points, Rasheed Wallace added 21, and Detroit beat Denver.

The Nuggets were coming off a record-setting 168-116 victory over Seattle, but it was Detroit's offense that took over Tuesday night. The Pistons hadn't scored 130 points in regulation since beating Denver 130-116 on March 8, 2000.

The Pistons scored a season-high 73 points in the first half, getting at least four points from 10 different players.

Carmelo Anthony led all scorers with 27 points, while Allen Iverson had 20 points and 11 assists. Denver also had seven players in double figures.



Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady sits on the bench during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics, Tuesday, March 18, 2008, in Houston.

Lakers 102, Mavericks 100

At Dallas, Kobe Bryant scored 29 points and Vladimir Radmanovic

scored 10 of his 21 in the final quarter to give Los Angeles just enough to hold off Dallas.

The Lakers led by 25 points

midway through the third quarter, but were up only 101-100 with 4.8 seconds left. Derek Fisher made one of two foul

shots after that, then Dirk Nowitzki had a chance to win it for Dallas but missed a 3-pointer as time expired.

Nowitzki had 35 points, 11 rebounds and a season-high five blocks, but the Mavericks' five-game winning streak was snapped. Dallas fell to 0-6 against teams with winning records since adding Jason Kidd.

Bulls 112, Nets 96

At Chicago, Luol Deng scored 20 points, and Drew Gooden had 19 points and 11 rebounds as Chicago built a big halftime lead, survived a sluggish third quarter and pulled away to beat New Jersey.

New Jersey whittled a 24-point halftime deficit to nine early in the fourth quarter, but the Bulls didn't falter. In its previous two games, Chicago squandered final-period leads and lost to the 76ers and Hornets.

Ben Gordon scored 10 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and Larry Hughes added 16 in Chicago's balanced attack.

Vince Carter led the Nets with 22 points and Richard Jefferson finished with 21.

Kings 122, Warriors 105

At Sacramento, California, Kevin Martin scored 34 points, Ron Artest added 26 and Sacramento snapped a three-game losing streak against Golden State.

Mikki Moore had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, who had lost five of their last six in a rivalry they mostly dominated before the Warriors' ascension last season. Sacramento lost most of a 23-point lead in the fourth quarter, but rallied in the final minutes to preserve its fourth win in five games overall.

Baron Davis had 24 points

and eight assists for the Warriors, who had won their last two games at Arco Arena with a large number of their Bay Area fans making the 80-mile trip.

Heat 112, Bucks 106

At Milwaukee, Jason Williams and Ricky Davis had double-doubles, Chris Quinn hit three crucial 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, and Miami snapped an 0-for-March streak by beating Milwaukee.

Miami had lost eight in a row. Quinn scored 17 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter, and the Heat rallied from a 14-point, second-half deficit to hand the Bucks their sixth straight loss.

Williams finished with 21 points and 10 assists, while Davis had 14 points and 10 assists. Earl Barron scored 16 points and Daequan Cook added 12 for Miami, which improved to 6-26 on the road this season, including two wins in its last four away from home.

Michael Redd scored 18 of his 27 points in the first half for Milwaukee.

Suns 111, Trail Blazers 98

At Portland, Oregon, Amare Stoudemire scored 25 points, Shaquille O'Neal had 16 points and 14 rebounds, and Phoenix beat Portland for its fifth straight win.

Steve Nash added 22 points and eight assists for the Suns, who remained a game behind the division-leading Los Angeles Lakers in the Pacific Division.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 31 points and eight rebounds for the Blazers, the sixth game in a row he has topped 20 points. Travis Outlaw had 13 points and Channing Frye and Jarrett Jack each scored 12.

Timberwolves owner suggests KG 'tanked it'

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kevin Garnett has heard plenty of criticism in his 13 years in the NBA. He doesn't hit the big shot in the fourth quarter. He only got the Minnesota Timberwolves out of the first round of the playoffs one time. His contract limited the team's ability to surround him with talent.

Through it all, no one ever questioned his intensity, effort or determination.

Until now, and from an unlikely source.

Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor, a staunch supporter and friend of Garnett's during their 12 seasons together in Minnesota, leveled some rare criticism at his former star on Tuesday, suggesting Garnett "tanked it" when he missed the last five games last year.

Taylor's remarks came after practice, as the Wolves' strong play down the stretch was being discussed. They have won four of their last six games and say they want to win as many as possible to create some momentum going into the offseason.

Taylor took exception to a local newspaper

columnist who suggested it was time for the Wolves, who are 16-50, to start losing to improve their chances in the draft lottery.

Garnett missed the last five games of last season with a leg injury and watched his team lose its final seven games, improving its draft status along the way, before being traded to Boston in July.

Taylor said the columnist "said a little bit last year that we sort of like tanked it. I don't think that. I don't like that so much. I don't like that. 'It was more like KG tanked it. I think the other guys still wanted to play. But it sure changed the team and didn't make us (as good).'"

The Celtics were in Houston for a game against the Rockets, and Garnett did not speak with reporters before the game. His agent, Andy Miller, said Taylor's remarks were "ridiculous."

"KG has never been questioned, nor would he ever be questioned by anyone, about his effort or desire to win and accomplish team success," Miller said in a phone interview. "During his tenure in Minnesota, nothing was more important to him than bringing a championship to Minnesota."

Boston coach Doc Rivers heard about Taylor's comment earlier in the day.

"I could care less about that," Rivers said. "That had nothing to do with us. That's last year's stuff."

Last year wasn't the first time the Wolves have been accused of dumping games.

Two years ago, the team shut down Garnett

for the final six games, which ended with center Mark Madsen shooting seven 3-pointers in a double-overtime loss to Memphis.

They traded a first-rounder to the Clippers in a deal for Marko Jaric that year, and needed to finish with a lottery pick in the top 10 to keep it. Minnesota lost four of its last five to ensure that happened.

The Wolves aren't the only team to come under scrutiny for tanking games in recent years. Memphis, which comes to the Target Center on Wednesday night, has heard it this year after trading star Pau Gasol to the Lakers for a package of nondescript players, and Miami recently made the decision to bench Dwyane Wade for the rest of the season.

So far this season, the Timberwolves cannot be considered in that company.

They have shown marked improvement in the last week Taylor said "the right thing to do is to press these guys to win, win, win, win, win."

"Why are we winning? We're winning for (the players), but the other thing is I think we're winning for the fans," he said. "I think we have to show the fans that, what I call it, there is a plan. That we're going to improve next year. And you can see where we were and this is where we're going and next year we're going to be a better team."

With a young core including Al Jefferson, Ryan Gomes and Randy Foye, there is some optimism that better days lie ahead.

Which is one reason why some fans wouldn't mind seeing the Wolves drop a few games to end up with the No. 1 pick and a possible shot at Kansas State star Michael Beasley.

The Wolves head into Wednesday night's game tied with Memphis and Seattle for the second-fewest wins in the league, five ahead of Miami.

Gomes, for one, prefers to try winning.

"We have to worry about the guys that are here now and who we're playing for now," he said. "We're playing for the 13 guys that are on our roster, our coaching staff, and the fans here. We can't think about who might be coming in here next year, a trade, or all that stuff. That's out of our control."

Besides, Taylor pointed out, dumping games guarantees the Wolves nothing. Under the current system, the team with the worst record has just a 25 percent chance of landing the top pick.

Though the Timberwolves have plenty of experience in the draft lottery, they have never improved their position by getting lucky. They often lose out in the deal, such as in 1992 when they had the best shot at the No. 1 pick and Shaquille O'Neal, but slipped to third and wound up with Christian Laettner.

"Let's be realistic. We've never been lucky," Taylor said, laughing. "That's not part of the plan, but let's hope that happens. I'm not counting on it."

Raiders close to deal in Hall trade



ALAMEDA, Calif.

(AP)—The Oakland Raiders and former Pro

Bowl cornerback DeAngelo Hall have made "significant progress" toward renegotiating his contract in one of the final steps needed to complete a trade with Atlanta, a person familiar with the talks said Tuesday.

While the Raiders and representatives for Hall are "still ironing out" parts of the deal, Hall planned to arrive in the Bay Area on Wednesday, the person said on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been completed. Hall would need to pass a physical after a deal is reached.

The Falcons would acquire from Oakland at least a second-round pick, the 34th overall, in next month's draft. The teams are still negotiating whether Oakland would need to send additional compensation to Atlanta, the person said.

ESPN, citing an unidentified source, reported Tuesday that Hall and the Raiders had agreed to a \$70 million, seven-year contract, but were still finalizing the amount of guaranteed money and bonuses in the deal.

The Raiders have been very active during the free-agency season after winning just four games last season and a league-low 19 the previous five years. Oakland has signed defensive tackles Tommy Kelly and William Joseph, receivers Javon Walker and Drew Carter, safety Gibril Wilson, offensive linemen Kwame Harris and Cornell Green to deals that could be worth more than \$160 million.

The Raiders also placed the exclusive franchise tag on cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha, guaranteeing him about \$10 million next season, and re-signed running back Justin Fargas to a \$12 million, three-year contract that guarantees him \$6 million.

Hall was a first-round pick in 2004 and two-time Pro Bowl selection, but he is nearly as well known for his outspoken demeanor. He clashed openly with former Falcons coach Bobby Petrino last season and was benched for a half after a sideline confrontation.

Mount St. Mary's gets NCAA-opening win



DAYTON, Ohio

(AP)—The Mount finally got The Win. Jeremy

Goode scored 21 points Tuesday night, and Mount St. Mary's got its first NCAA tournament victory, beating Coppin State 69-60 in an opening-round game with two teams that know a lot about losing.

The Mountaineers (19-14) won their last five games to shed their losing record and make the tournament, then got the one victory that's always been well out of reach. In its two other NCAA appearances, Mount St. Mary's lost to Kentucky by 46 points in 1995 and to Michigan State by 23 in 1999.

No time to savor this one. Tournament reality hits on Friday, when the Mount plays top-seeded North Carolina in Raleigh—virtually the Tar Heels' backyard. Fans in the crowd of 8,464 at University of Dayton Arena held up signs calling on the play-in winner to "Bury N. Carolina."

Tough chance for that. A 16th seed has never taken

down a No. 1.

But, that's a challenge for later. For a few sweet minutes on Tuesday night, Mount St. Mary's got to savor a breakthrough win over another Maryland school separated by about 60 miles.

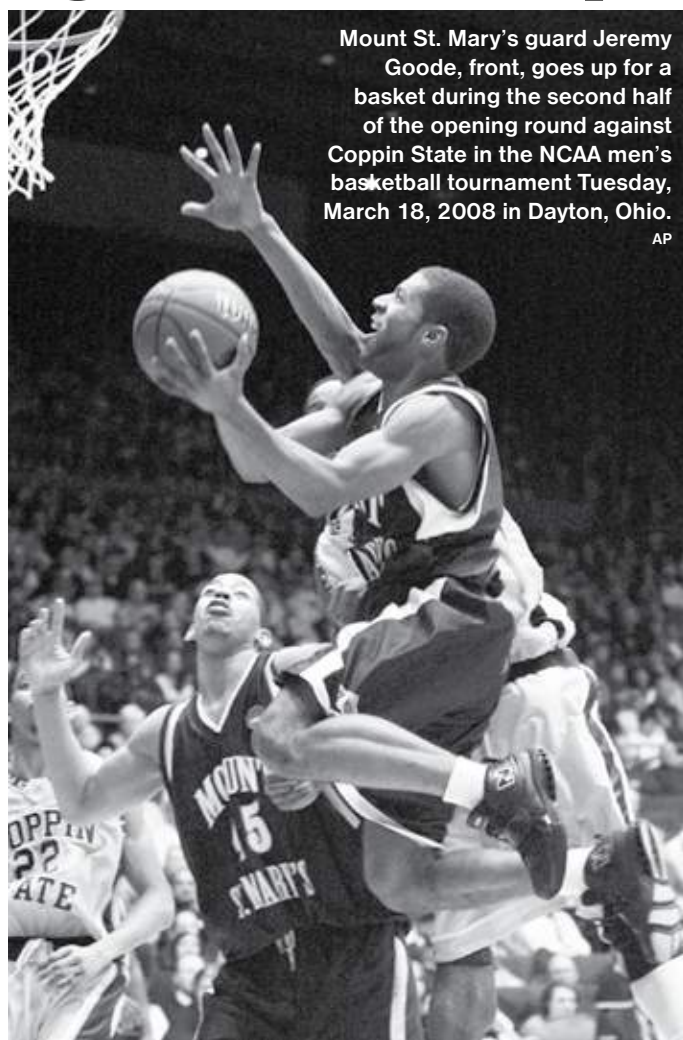
Coppin State (16-21) became the first team to reach the tournament with 20 losses, and the Eagles looked out of place in the closing minutes. They went five minutes without scoring, and that allowed Mount St. Mary's to break it open.

Goode, a 5-foot-9 sophomore guard who knows a little about Carolina blue because he grew up in Charlotte, was the spark for Mount St. Mary's up-tempo offense. He did it all, driving to the basket and hitting fadeaway jumpers over much taller players.

He also supplied the final touches, hitting four free throws in the last 27 seconds.

Tywain McKee led Coppin State with 15 points.

Perhaps no other opening-game winner enjoyed it so much and complained so little. Unlike previous years, there was no grouching about having to open



Mount St. Mary's guard Jeremy Goode, front, goes up for a basket during the second half of the opening round against Coppin State in the NCAA men's basketball tournament Tuesday, March 18, 2008 in Dayton, Ohio.

AP

the tournament in Dayton.

Not from Mount St. Mary's, the Northeast Conference champ which had a losing record before it ran off five straight double-digit wins to close the season and reach the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1999.

Coppin State? No way.

Marooned at 4-19 in early February, the Eagles sneaked into the tournament for the first time since 1997 by winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic title.

No one could grouse about the game, either. For the most part, they didn't play like teams with a combined 35 losses. Coppin State used its quickness, going inside for dunks and layups. Mount St. Mary's trio of dangerous guards did most of the damage.

Coppin State was ahead the entire first half, leading by as many as nine. The Mountaineers' guards changed the tone after halftime, when Chris Vann's three-point play put Mount St. Mary's up 39-34.

It went back-and-forth until Coppin State went cold at the end.

Yankees pay homage to Va. Tech victims in exhibition



BLACKSBURG, Va.

(AP)—Derek

Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and the rest of the New York Yankees stood on the third-base line, caps over their hearts while they gazed toward the outfield.

As 32 oversized orange balloons were released into the air, the storied team in its famous pinstripes watched right along with Virginia Tech players, fans and family members of victims from last year's campus massacre.

And when the national anthem was finished and the players headed for their dugouts, it was time to play a game that was less about baseball than it was about healing.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi could feel it when 200 people were waiting as the team bus made its first stop at the memorial to 32 people slain last April, and in the first inning while Girardi was sitting in the stands with football coach Frank Beamer.

"A young lady came up to me and said her brother was one of the children killed, and her mother thanks us for being here," Girardi said. "That really hit me hard."

From beginning to end, the visit Yankees owner George Steinbrenner promised moments after seeing the tragedy unfolding on television last April 16 was one to remember.

The Yankees had made a

\$1 million contribution to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund, created to cover grief counseling, memorials and other costs for the victims and their families after Virginia Tech student Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people in two campus buildings before committing suicide.

The Yankees presented the donation to school president Charles Steger last May in New York, but said the visit to Blacksburg was a key part of the assistance.

Rodriguez said starting out at the on-campus memorial was powerful.

"There are certain things that happen that are so devastating that time stops," he said, comparing the shootings to the terrorists

attacks in 2001. "For me, this is one of them. This is probably the proudest day I've ever (had) to wear a Yankee uniform."

Hearing that, Hokies coach Pete Hughes said, "knocks you on your heels."

Girardi looked at the 32 stones at the memorial and thought of the parents.

"To think of the anxious moments of all the parents who had students here and especially the ones who lost loved ones, how difficult that must have been," he said.

Jeter posed for a picture with a woman in front of the stone that memorialized her fiancée. His only request to her was that she smile, which she did.

"It's part of the reason that we're here," Jeter said. "People always ask, well, what can you do? How does this help? I really don't know. If it just makes people smile or enjoy themselves for the three hours that we're here, it's all worthwhile."

During batting practice, the Yankees wore caps in the Hokies' orange and maroon, their 'NY' emblem on the front and a 'VT' logo on the side. Those were also the caps worn by Virginia Tech, while the Yankees switched to a Navy blue for the game, still with both emblems.

The pregame ceremony also included presentations to the Yankees of four nameplates engraved in "Hokie stone," the limestone building material of choice on campus.

As the balloons drifted high above and out of sight, chants of "Let's go Hokies" broke out. But the cheers were just as loud for the Yankees.

Rodriguez batted in the first

with the bases loaded, and hit the first pitch for a sacrifice fly to right. When Hokies starter Andrew Wells got Jason Giambi to ground into an inning-ending 4-6-3 double play, the Hokies bench emptied to greet him.

"Seeing how they were pumped to have little moments that will last the rest of their lives, to have the conversations of, 'Remember when?' That was neat," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "This was fun for them and fun for our guys."

"What we did puts everything else in a little more perspective."

Rodriguez and Jeter and most of the starters came out in the fourth inning, and A-Rod strolled across the field with two bats and sat with the Hokies in their dugout.

"He was giving our guys trivia questions for his batnings gloves and his bat," Hokies coach Pete Hughes said. "He signed everything they threw at him."

Jeff Karstens pitched four innings for the Yankees in their 11-0 victory, allowing both Virginia Tech hits and striking out two. Nine Hokies pitchers combined to walk 10 batters and allow 10 hits, but the score meant nothing.

"I think it was just the sort of thing we were looking for," said Virginia Tech pitcher Rob Waskiewicz, who retired the side in order in the third. "We've been through some hard times, and people are starting to feel better, but I think this was a great thing."

Second baseman Matt Hacker agreed.

"It was everything everybody wanted it to be," he said.



AP

New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter signs autographs prior to the Yankees' exhibition baseball game against Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., Tuesday, March 18, 2008.



Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines celebrates his victory Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico, after their WBC super featherweight boxing match, Saturday March 15, 2008, at The Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. Pacquiao won by split decision.

Pacquiao, Roach: Yes to rematch

HOLLYWOOD— They're ready to make this a trilogy—on a couple of conditions.

Manny Pacquiao and celebrated trainer of the year Freddie Roach are willing to give Juan Manuel Marquez a rematch—and a shot at being a world champion again—but the Mexican might need to give his nod to a couple of concessions before that bout could materialize.

Marquez may have to cool his heels a while. Then, he may have to bulk up.

Roach said Pacquiao cannot start training yet because of a superficial cut on the lower part of his right eyebrow incurred after getting hit by a stinging Marquez right straight during their match in Las Vegas, which was dubbed "Unfinished Business," last Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

Pacquiao won the bout via a narrow split decision, taking Marquez' World

Boxing Council super featherweight belt at the Events Center of the Mandalay Bay. Marquez insisted that he won the match.

"We may have to wait a little longer for Manny's cut to heal," said Roach, who said they will start training only after the cut no longer poses a problem. The wait would mean the June 28 play-date penciled as Pacquiao's next fight will definitely be pushed back.

Roach also said Team Pacquiao is hell bent on going after David Diaz's WBC lightweight crown first before considering a Pacquiao-Marquez III.

"He (Pacquiao) told me he's having problems making 130 and he wants to move up to 135," Roach told GMA-7 on Monday. "We'd like to win the title at 135 and if he (Marquez) wants to challenge us at 135, then let's do it that way."

Whatever the scenario, there is only one constant: Pacquiao's ready to mix it up with anyone on the ring.

"Kahit sino, laban ako (I'll fight anybody)," said Pacquiao on Monday after returning to Roach's Wild Card Gym here.

Insisting that they won Pacquiao-Marquez II, Marquez and his camp are asking for an immediate rematch, something that's not included in the agreement signed by Pacquiao.

Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer even offered Pacquiao \$6 million Sunday just for the fight to happen in June.

A little bit disappointed by Pacquiao's performance against Marquez, whom the Filipino fought to a controversial draw in 2004, Roach wants his ward to train a full two months before a fight.

Roach admitted that Pacquiao's new weapon—right hook—was virtually non-existent against Marquez.

"He didn't use it (right hook) like we thought he would," said Roach. "He was moving into the direction of Marquez's punches." (PDI)

Coach Leo Austria, Welcoat part ways

MANILA, Philippines— Coach Leo Austria and the Welcoat management severed their ties after three fruitless conferences in the pro league.

Austria stepped down as the Dragons coach Monday, less than two weeks before the start of the 2008 PBA Fiesta Conference.

"It was a mutual agreement. Management is looking at a new direction and I don't want to stand in their way," said Austria.

Team owner Raymund Yu said they're likely to appoint Caloy Garcia as the interim coach.

"The tournament is just around the bend, mahirap kumuha ng (it's difficult to hire a) coach outside the team. But we have to discuss things first with our coaching staff, kailangan may (there

needs to be) harmony. Mahirap kung iba-iba ang tono ng kanta naming (it's difficult if everyone does not sing the same tune)," said Yu.

With a so-so lineup, the Dragons finished dead last in both the all-Filipino and the reinforced tourneys last season. The team finished no any better in the recent Smart Philippine Cup with the team plagued by injuries to key players including top Draft pick Joe Devance.

The team posted a 10-44 win-loss record under Austria in three conferences.

"Wala naman talaga akong materyales (I really didn't have the tools) last year. This year nakuha namin si (we got) Joe Devance at (and) Nic Belasco. We were expecting to be in the middle of the pack (in the recent all-Filipino) but injuries got in the way," rued Austria.

The amiable mentor said he was ex-

pecting Welcoat to be competitive in its third or fourth year in the PBA. The franchise, co-owned by Yu and Terry Que, dominated the amateur leagues for quite sometime.

Austria said the Dragons are likely to make improvement in the coming Fiesta Conference since they're allowed to field two imports. They have tapped Cory Santee and Jason Beau Keep for the job.

"I believe Santee and Keep are good imports. They could well plug the holes in the team," said Austria, the PBA Rookie of the Year in 1985.

Welcoat governor and team manager Atty. Mamerto Mondragon didn't discount the possibility of more changes in their lineup.

A few weeks back, Welcoat dealt Belasco to Coca-Cola for Mark Isip plus two future draft picks. (www.pba.com.ph)

SAKANOS

From Page 28

he encountered technical problems with his bike last year.

It was Syoki's sixth straight trip to Saipan joining the Taga Kids in 2003 and 2004, and has participated in the Tagaman since 2005. Kensyo, meanwhile, has joined his ninth straight Tagaman.

They also join between six to seven

triathlon events in a year in Japan. Syoki also has a radio and TV program, while his father manages the family bakery at Tokushima prefecture.

Syoki and Kensyo, who left last Sunday, said they will be back next year to once again challenge the Tagaman course.

Syoki, a native of Anan City, was born with down syndrome but has developed a liking for triathlon. Aside from competing in the Tagaman, the

Sakanos also joined triathlons on Tinian and Rota.

In 2004, Syoki completed the TagaKids in 53 minutes and 27 seconds. He completed his first Olympic-distance (1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run) race in the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon in 2005 finishing with a time of 4:25:30 in February 2005.

Syoki had a time of 5:56:03 in his first Tagaman in 2005.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE					Pacific Division				
Atlantic Division					L.A. Lakers				
	W	L	Pct	GB		46	21	.687	—
y-Boston	54	13	.806	—	Phoenix	45	22	.672	1
Toronto	34	33	.507	20	Golden State	41	25	.621	4 1/2
Philadelphia	33	34	.493	21	Sacramento	31	36	.463	15
New Jersey	28	39	.418	26	L.A. Clippers	21	45	.318	24 1/2
New York	19	48	.284	35	x-clinched playoff spot				
Southeast Division					y-clinched division				
x-Orlando	45	24	.652	—	Yesterday's Games				
Washington	33	33	.500	10 1/2	Detroit 136, Denver 120				
Atlanta	29	38	.433	15	Miami 112, Milwaukee 106				
Charlotte	24	43	.358	20	Chicago 112, New Jersey 96				
Miami	12	54	.182	31 1/2	L.A. Lakers 102, Dallas 100				
Central Division					Boston 94, Houston 74				
x-Detroit	49	18	.731	—	Sacramento 122, Golden State 105				
Cleveland	38	30	.559	11 1/2	Phoenix 111, Portland 98				
Chicago	27	40	.403	22	By The Associated Press				
Indiana	26	41	.388	23	LOCAL SCORES				
Milwaukee	23	44	.343	26	NMIFA Men's Standings				
WESTERN CONFERENCE					W L D GF GA Pts GD				
Southwest Division					Inter				
Houston	46	21	.687	—	5 1 1 23 12 16 11				
New Orleans	45	21	.682	1/2	FC Arirang				
San Antonio	44	23	.657	2	5 2 1 20 13 16 7				
Dallas	44	24	.647	2 1/2	Independents				
Memphis	16	50	.242	29 1/2	4 3 1 16 15 13 1				
Northwest Division					Onwel				
Utah	45	24	.652	—	3 3 2 17 19 11 -2				
Denver	40	27	.597	4	Multinational FC				
Portland	35	33	.515	9 1/2	3 4 1 17 31 10 -14				
Minnesota	16	50	.242	27 1/2	Ol'Aces				
					0 7 0 3 63 0 -60				
					GF - Goals for				
					GA - Goals against				
					Pts - Points				
					GD - Goal differential				

MANNY

From Page 28

IBSS is also the exclusive dealer of Canon office equipments, like copiers, fax machines, and printers, on Saipan.

"Right now I am still thinking of how to raise funds for that trip. I might also organize a bike race in the coming months as a fundraising activity to support my trip," said Sitchon, who is also a certified referee of the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sitchon, who admits that basketball is still his first love, arrived on Saipan in 1999 and has worked for IBSS the past nine years. He started competing in triathlons and other running events in 2000.

He has competed in the last nine Tagaman races since 2000. In 2004 and 2006, he joined Tagaman as a relay team due to budget constraints. His first

XTERRA Saipan was in 2005 where he placed third in his age group.

This is Sitchon's first age group win in the XTERRA earning him a slot to the XTERRA World Championship in Maui.

"I have also joined many marathons but only once I did the full marathon," said Sitchon, who admits he has to improve with his running. "I enjoy doing triathlon, I think I am addicted to it."

Sitchon said he was also grateful for his job at IBSS since he got the chance to go off-island to attend trainings and seminars about Canon products. "Actually, I have been targeting the L.A. triathlon for so long. I was hoping a training would be scheduled in L.A. so I can also compete there."

Sitchon said he would also love to join the XTERRA Guam on March 29 to join longtime friend Butch Sublemente but he is not yet sure about his schedule.

HAT

From Page 28

and Joe Duenas scored in the 35th and 39th minutes as Inter enjoyed a 7-0 lead going into the halftime break.

Inter never let up even with a huge lead as Chris Nelson joined in the scoring fray when he booted one in the 55th minute of the second half. Loken had one more in the 78th minute, while Guerrero had his fourth goal two minutes after.

Loken had back-to-back goals before the game ended to close out Inter's scoring.

Jesus Iguel scored Ol'Aces' lone goal when he found the back of the

net in the 63rd minute of the second half.

Onwel, meanwhile, held Multinational FC to a 5-5 draw, while FC Arirang scored a 4-1 decision over Independents.

Jessie Phonsutjit and Somboon Plangsri had two goals each for Onwel, which also scored on an own goal.

Lee Hokyun, meanwhile, had two goals for MFC while Joe Miller, Sewoon Park, and Semisi Tamrakar added one each.

Kim Sung In scored twice while Bryan Ko and Jang Sun Sik had one goal each as FC Arirang defeated Independents, 4-1.

Jack Thoenhsaket scored the lone goal for Independents.

FOUR

From Page 28

matches when they go up against each other at 6pm, while Home Boyz take on CH-Hammer at 7pm. Menu-do faces Ol'Aces at 8pm at Court A, while at Court B No Fear will meet Islanders.

In the women's division, YoYo's out-

lasted Ta Chagi, 16-25, 25-20, 15-11, while Beach Jammers downed Seikid, 25-20, 25-16.

Pikan Gaga, which drew a bye after a league-best 11-1 record, will face Beach Jammers at 6pm today, while Ta Chagi takes on Sekid in the second game.

The winners will face off in the finals while the losers will play for the third place trophy.

Taga Inc. plans bigger Sportsfest in '09



Relay team runner-up, from left, Kai Staal and Russ Quinn join third placers and 2007 champions Kieran Daly and Jack Kabriel for a group photo in last Saturday's 19th Tagaman Triathlon award ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club beach side. Not in photo is Yoshi Suzuki, who ran for Staal and Quinn.

Photos and Text By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica hopes to start planning for a bigger Saipan Sportsfest in 2009.

Fresh from the successful staging of the 19th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday, which culminated the 2008 Sportsfest, Mojica and the entire organizing committee will meet



to do an assessment of the two events and plan for next year.

The weeklong Saipan Sportsfest, which began in 2002, started with the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and ended with the Tagaman. Various activities were also lined up so participants of both races can

enjoy their stay on Saipan.

Mojica said they would have a post-race wrap up meeting to see if there is anything that they can improve next year. They also wanted to inform Team Unlimited of their plans for 2009 by mid or last week of July.

Mojica thanked the whole community for their support in ensuring the success of the 2008 Saipan Sportsfest as they look forward for next year's staging of the 20th Tagaman.

Mojica added the whole community working together as one made the 7th XTERRA Saipan possible this year as various sectors of the Commonwealth banded together to pull it through.



Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica, left, and Laurie Peterka, right, congratulate amateur photographer Dan Kimball for volunteering his time by taking photos of the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championships and the 19th Tagaman Triathlon.



Top female finishers in the 19th Tagaman, from left, Renata Bucher, Maimi Shimizu, Miekko Carey, and Noriko Takano.



Kiyokazu Onishi, third left, is presented a CNMI Honorary Tourism Ambassador plaque by organizers of the 19th Tagaman Triathlon, from left, Pacific Development Inc. general manager Yoichi Matsumura, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, and J.M. Guerrero.



Top 3 finishers in the 24-and-under division, from left, Matt Mancao, Federico Fernandez, and Syoki Sakano.



Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica, left, joins participants from Kaike, Japan, and top Saipan finishers Maimi Shimizu and Eli Torgeson on the stage.



Mixed team relay finishers, from left, Timothy Lang, Laila Qudsi, and Nick Swain; Mamiko Oshima and Joshua Berger, and Byeng-Ju An. Not in photo is An's teammate Kegan Spector Hall.



The Top 3 finishers in the 60-and-over division, from left, Hans Dieben, Katuzo Ishida, and Naohiro Otani are all smiles after receiving their medals.



Women's relay top three teams, from left, Adeana Shendal Greenlee, Ericka Frink, and Tina Goodwin; Monica Yamaguchi and Heather Kennedy; and the "Johnson Sisters" Sarah, Katie, and mom Betty.



Women's age group winners, from left, Michiko Kawakami (30-34); Ayumi Ishikawa and Haldre Rogers (25-29); Ayumi Hasebe and Eberle Funches (40-44); and Kaori Hiramitsu (45-49).



Taga Inc. plans bigger Sportsfest in '09
Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica hopes to start planning for a bigger Saipan Sportsfest in 2009.

27

Saipan Tribune Sports



Celtics snap Rockets' 22-game win streak
Kevin Garnett scored 22 points and Paul Pierce added 20 as the Boston Celtics beat the Rockets 94-74 on Tuesday, stopping Houston's remarkable victory run at 22 games.

24

28 THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sakanos survive tough Tagaman course



JON PEREZ

Syoki, left, and father Kensyo Sakano raise both their arms as they cross the finish line after conquering the 19th Tagaman Triathlon course last Saturday at American Memorial Park.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

There is nothing more fulfilling than overcoming a big challenge like the 19th Tagaman Triathlon.

That is why the father-and-son tandem of Kensyo and Syoki Sakano felt content as they crossed the Tagaman finish line at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

The Sakanos, who have been a regular fixture on Saipan's longest-running triathlon, simultaneously crossed the finish line with both of them raising their hands once they touched the tape.

Syoki has down syndrome and has inspired many triathletes not only in Japan but also those who participated in the

Tagaman every year.

"I am very happy for finishing Tagaman. [Tagaman] has always been very difficult. It is a very tough course and the weather conditions are hot," said the 21-year-old Syoki through interpreter Yoichi Matsumura.

Syoki and father Kensyo finished the race in five hours, 52 minutes, and 44 seconds. The younger Sakano finished third in the 24-and-under division, while father Kensyo placed fifth in the 50-54 age group.

Kensyo said he has always supported his son on the Tagaman course every time they competed. They swam side-by-side in the 2-kilometer loop around the lagoon and at times Kensyo even went down his

bike to push Syoki in the uphill climbs of the 60-km bike leg.

They were again side-by-side in the run with Kensyo continuously encouraging and supporting his son.

Tagaman organizers, volunteers, finishers, local media, photographers, and a Japanese television crew cheered and greeted them as they crossed the finish line.

Syoki first participated in the Taga Kids in 2003 but failed to finish the race after falling from his bike. He was a Taga Kids finisher in 2004 and jumped to the Tagaman the following year.

He completed the Tagaman course in 2005 and 2006 but failed in his bid for a third straight finisher's T-shirt when

See SAKANOS on Page 26



Manny needs money for Maui

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Local triathlete Manny Sitchon will be holding several fundraising events for his trip to Hawaii where he will compete in the 2008 XTERRA World Championship on Oct. 26.

Sitchon, who works as a service support supervisor at Island Business Systems and Supplies, qualified for the XTERRA World in Makena, Maui after winning the 50-54 division in the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship last March 8 at American Memorial Park.

IBSS is a division of Jones and Guerrero Corp. (J&G Corp.), which also owns Micronesian Brokers Inc. (MBI), Townhouse Department Store, Aquarius Beach Hotel, and KFC/Tacobell.

See MANNY on Page 26

Manny Sitchon walks off the finish line after completing the 2006 XTERRA Saipan Championship course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Hat tricks lead Inter past lowly Ol'Aces

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Hat tricks by Chris Guerrero and Peter Loken highlighted Inter's 12-1 crushing of the lowly Ol'Aces in last Sunday's games in the 2008 Men's Winter Football League at the Oleai Field inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

Guerrero began Inter's scoring with back-to-back goals in the ninth and 14th minutes of the first half, while John Duenas added two more in the 17th and 18th minute.

Guerrero scored his third goal in the 30th minute, while Loken

See HAT on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Inter's Peter Loken, left, battles Jesse Phonsutjit of Onwel in this file photo taken in their game in the Onwel Cup last year at the Oleai Field.

Four teams earn advantage in men's division

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Pennant winner Menudo joins three other men's teams that gained an early advantage in the double-elimination round phase of the 2008 Indoor Winter Volleyball League held Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Top seed Menudo made quick work of Beach Jammers, 25-10, 25-11, and only needs one more win to earn a semifinal spot in the inaugural volleyball league

organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

Menudo dominated Beach Jammers all throughout the match, establishing an early lead after finding little resistance from their opponents. Beach Jammers also failed to penetrate Menudo's defense at the net.

Menudo will face Ol'Aces, which also scored a two-set sweep of CH-Hammer, 25-19, 25-23, in the second round of the playoffs with the winner advancing to the semifinals.

The loser of the Menudo-

Ol'Aces match will have to play one more game in order to move on into the next phase.

The Islanders, meanwhile, were pushed to the limit by Fanians before pulling off a 26-24, 21-25, 17-15 win to join Ol'Aces and Menudo as winners in the first round of the playoffs.

No Fear came back from an opening set loss and pulled off a thrilling three-set win over Home Boyz, 23-25, 25-17, 15-8.

Losers Beach Jammers and Fanians will open up today's

See FOUR on Page 26